The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is decorated with a traditional marbled paper pattern, often called a 'stone' or 'shell' pattern. This pattern consists of large, irregular, organic shapes in shades of grey, tan, and brown, separated by thin, flowing veins of red, black, and blue. The overall effect is a complex, swirling, and cellular texture. In the center of the cover, there is a rectangular white paper label. On this label, the text 'EX LIBRIS' is printed in a small, black, serif font. Below it, the name 'JOHN FARQUHAR FULTON' is printed in a larger, black, serif font. The edges of the book cover show some wear and slight discoloration, particularly along the top and bottom borders.

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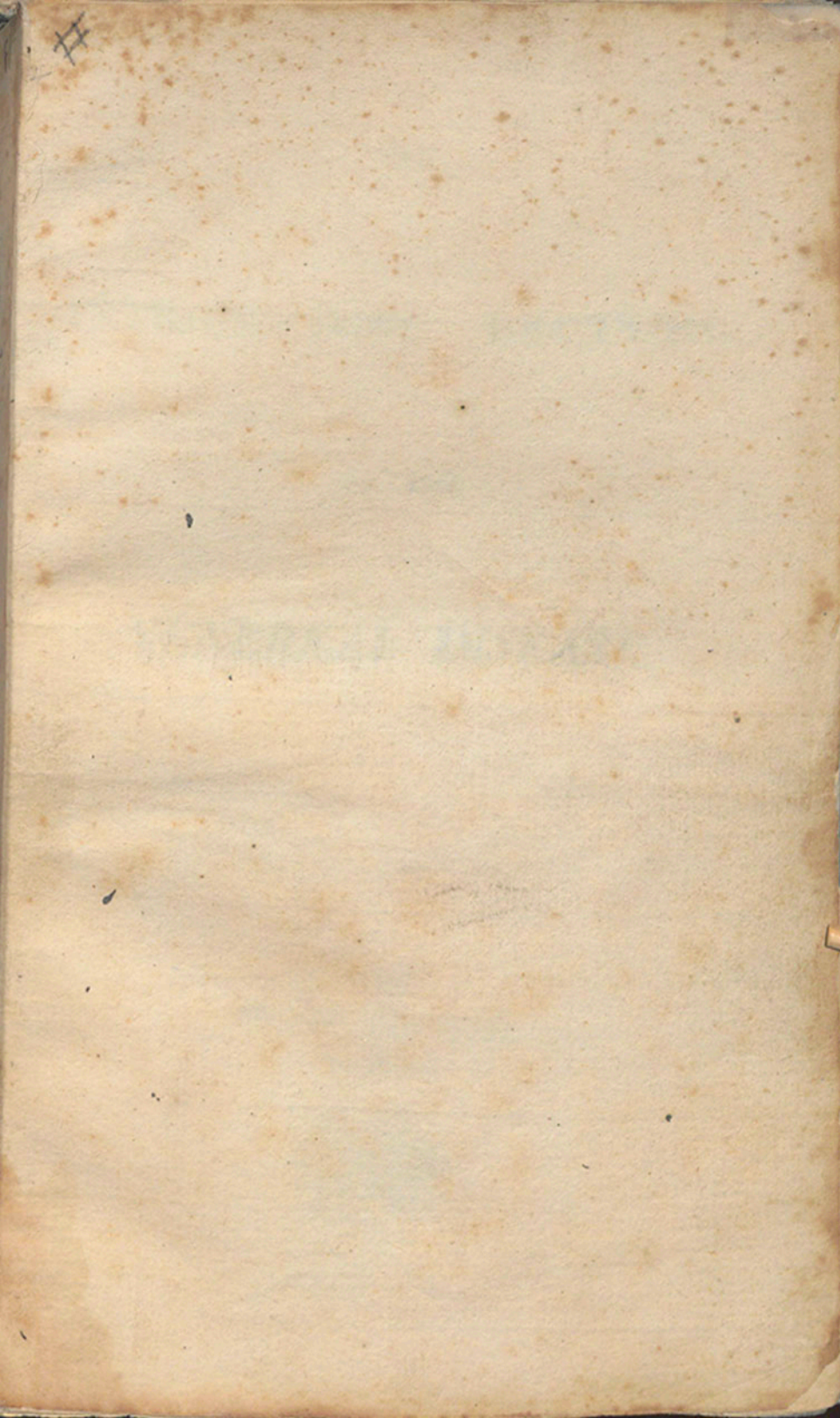




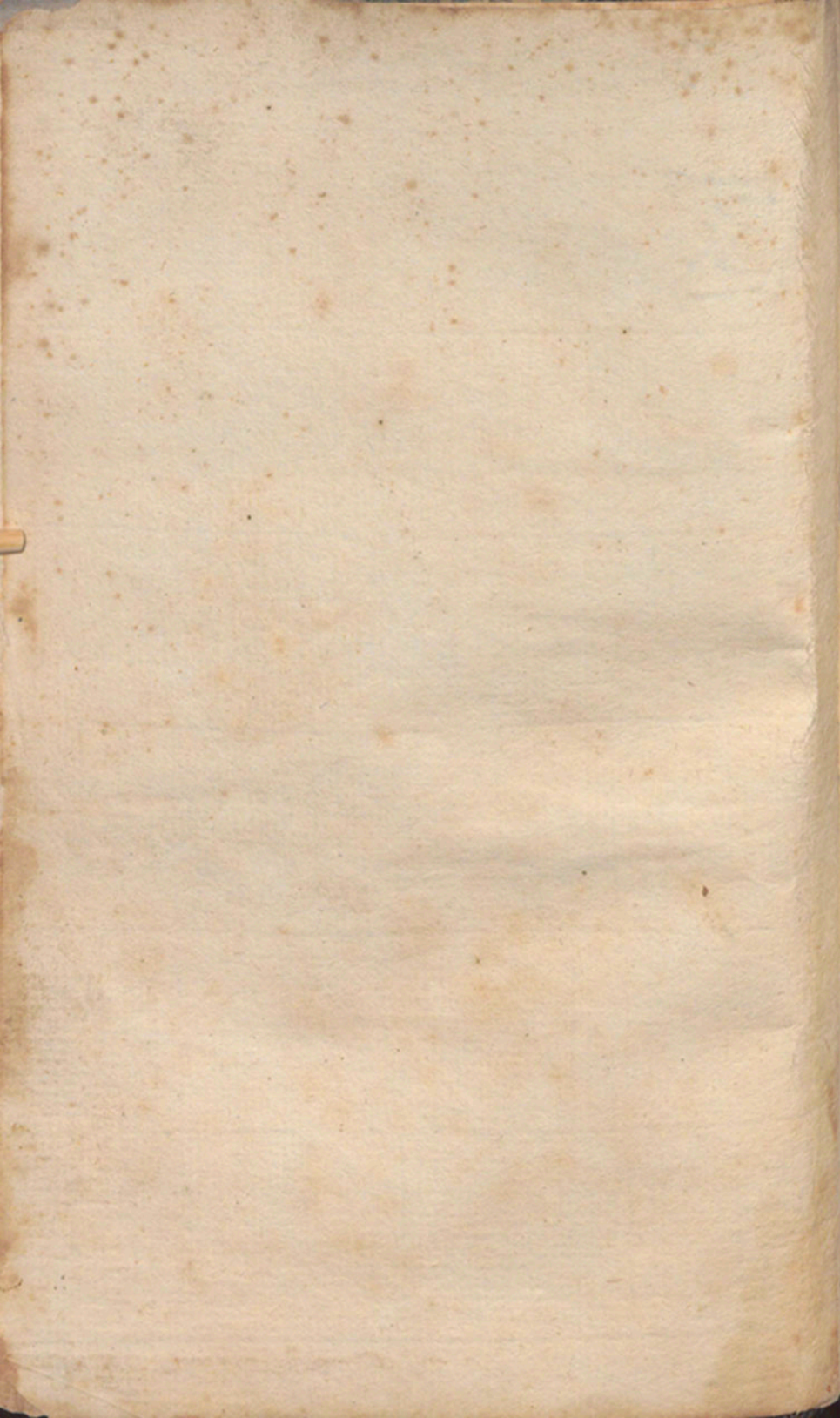
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AN

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

TO THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

BY DR. HUNTER.





INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

ON THE

VENTRICAL DISEASE

BY DR. HUGHES

1844

# Introductory Lecture,

&c.

*Ven. virus* may be reckoned one of the morbid compound poisons capable of affecting the human body constitutionally or locally, and communicating to others the same disease. The poison itself we know little of, except from its effects on the human body. We know, however, that the virus is always in or mixed with pus, which shews it is secreted by an inflammable surface; tho' necessarily so as to be always a poison, it always produces a species of inflammation in those that receive it (which is of a different sort from any other) and also a peculiar action superadded, by which action the specific matter is formed. After the continuance of it, however, for some time, infection may remain, and a capability of communicating it to others when inflammation has totally disappeared. Some venereal gonorrhoea seemingly arises at



at times without any sensible preceding inflammation. I have been puzzled sometimes concerning the nature of such. The virus is only communicable by a part that secretes, as it is evident that those parts that secrete are most infectious; so it is certain that those parts which do not secrete cannot give the infection. Irritation generally takes place when a sound part has had connection with a diseased one, and inflammation follows. — And for this poison to act, it must be applied to a state of solution or mixture; for in vapour it will not give the disease — differing in this respect from the small-pox and many other poisons. It is well known that the seat of the disease at present is the parts of generation; chiefly from whence we may conclude that this always was its principal residence, and communicated by the act of coition — though this is not absolutely necessary, as it may be communicated by other means: — the introduction of a bougie, covered with venereal matter, into the urethra, will give the disease. — Any disease that is not well marked, attacking those parts, is immediately suspected to be venereal, whether really so or not. We should on such occasions take the greatest pains to distinguish what the disease is.

The



## The Division.

It is capable of affecting the body two ways:—first, locally;—second, universally or consequently, forming the constitutional genus.—The effects of the local are immediate, arising from the communication of the pus, and may be considered under two heads, seemingly different:

First, the formation of matter without any ulceration is called gonorrhœa, which I shall call the first species of the genus;—the second is where there is an ulcer forming a chancre. The consequent to these two, as buboes, may be called the remote—local. The cause of both, viz. the gonorrhœa and chancre are the same, though the effects are quite otherwise from the modes of action;—the œconomy of the parts being very very different, one having a secreting surface, the other not. I mean by a secreting—surface all internal canals, &c. As all the canals are similar in this respect, there need be only one application to produce this effect. When any irritating matter is thrown upon a secreting surface, nature, to overcome that stimulus, increases the action of the part, from whence gonorrhœas are formed. When the same circumstances happen on secreting parts, nature not—  
being



being possessed here of the same advantage as in the former, absorbs that part so stimulated, by which the second head or chancre is formed. — The secretion in the gonorrhoea is not a natural one, but a new one substituted, which becomes a venereal one. Any secreting surface having the venereal virus deposited upon it, will become venereal, as the eyelids, &c. yet there may be some more disposed to receive the infection than others, as the urethra.

## Local Consequent,

Is in consequence of the local, from the matter being absorbed; hence buboes are formed of the same specific nature with that producing them. The virus is more readily absorbed from some parts than others — as from chancres sooner than from an incised wound; for the incised wound must become of the same nature with the virus before the matter is absorbed. This is seen in inoculation for the small-pox, — where viruluous matter is not at first absorbed, but remains stimulating till it has produced an ulcer of the same specific nature with itself, — before absorption takes place.



## No difference between the Matter of a Gonorrhœa and Chancre.

It has frequently been a subject of dispute whether the matter of a chancre or gonorrhœa essentially differ, or whether they are the same;—but as I have produced chancre in myself from matter of a gonorrhœa, that point may be now settled. I am of opinion that there is no difference; for, besides the experiment just mentioned, we find that either a gonorrhœa or chancre are capable of producing the pus. When a secreting surface has received the inflammatory action, the secretion is always increased, and is at least so much altered as to become exactly similar to that by which it was poisoned.—The matter that it first received stimulated the part to secrete, to wash it off as it were, but does not succeed, as the disease continues—and this continuance is occasioned by the consequent inflammation. The venereal virus is not obliged to the pus, but to the specific inflammation, for the continuance of the action. Some have asserted, that matter in gonorrhœa arises from an ulcerated surface. Now, although this—might be found, in a few instances, to be the case, yet having examined many after death, without finding any appearance of ulcer—



ulceration, I cannot but conclude that it is far from being the case, in general. Besides, if it depends on ulcer, these would not be expected to heal without the use of mercury; whereas any one who is at all acquainted with the disease, knows that this species of it can be cured without a grain of mercury.

This disease differs very much in degree of virulence of the symptoms in different constitutions, some being more affected with it than others. When mild, it may be called simple; when violent, complicated;—which difference does not arise from any different quality in the matter, but in the parts that receive it, some not being susceptible of this irritation, or scarcely of any other. I have known a chancre to heal up immediately, whilst a gonorrhœa produced in the same person the most violent symptoms. In some a venereal ulcer will heal very readily, & whilst a slight wound from any cause whatever would torment both the surgeon and patient. — Case of a gentleman, who from running his spur in his leg had a very terrible ulcer, at the same time that chancres were healing with the greatest readiness. I was almost inclined in this case to apply venereal matter to the ulcer, for I could not help thinking that this would induce it to heal.



## Natural Decay.

Some diseases are capable of curing themselves, nature not being sufficient to continue the action for a very long time. If this was not the case, there would be no end to many diseases, and I believe this principle is common to many of them. Hence the consequent venereal virus has often no power of continuing the action, so that the cure is effected by a natural decay. This natural decay generally takes place in a secreting part; for a chancre will increase in general as long as the virus remains unattacked. The venereal matter has always the same specific quality, so that according to the irritability of the parts will the disease be more or less violent; and I make it a matter of doubt whether a gonorrhoea would be increased by any communication of the same matter; for when the matter of a gonorrhoea or chancre has been applied to a bubo, no retardment of the cure has been observed - the matter applied being only a venereal of the same kind it was furnished so plentifully with before, it is no wonder that such should be the effect. Sometimes the part that is first affected will get well first. The poisonous gland and duct of viper is not stimulated by the matter or fluid it secretes, but if they be applied to any other part of the animal, different circumstances will take place. When  
a part



a part has become accustomed to a stimulus for some time, it grows gradually insensible of its action; but if there is any interval, the part will become almost as sensible as ever. If a man continues to be intimate with a woman who has clapped him, if he is cured and she not, he will, notwithstanding, not receive a fresh infection; but if, on the other hand, he absents himself for some nights from her, and returns upon being cured, the parts having time to recover themselves, will be again irritated in the same manner as on first exposure. The infection is generally, if not always, worst at first; and it is a well known fact that the number of claps always diminish the degree of violence of future ones. It is difficult to know when the taint is gone; notwithstanding the discharge, &c. may entirely disappear. I have known a woman who once infected a man without being sensible of it herself; and again, after an interval of two years, in the case of a magdalen, a man was infected by communion with her even when she was confined to the hospital for the space described. This arises from the habituation of the parts rendering them insensible to the action of the matter.

Chan.



## Chancres

Are of the second local, arising from a deposition of the matter on a cuticular surface, forming an ulcer, and the matter secreted is the same as that causing it. When the inflammation has occasioned ulceration it will generally increase till cured by art - different in this from gonorrhœa.

Of the two preceding Species not attending at the same time.

Why they do not happen at the same time is difficult to explain; for it is natural to suppose that one would produce the other, - although it does not often turn out so. Yet I have known a chancre come on soon after a gonorrhœa, and vice versa - that it depends on this, viz. that the presence of one irritation generally excludes the other.

## Of the Consequent.

It is from the above two, and is of two kinds, one immediately local, as buboes, & the other is the constitutional affection.



## Buboes,

Are oftener caused by chancre than by gonorrhœa, the poison raising irritation in the glands as it passes through them, producing suppuration, &c.

### Of the second Genus, or Constitutional Affection.

When the poisonous matter is absorbed and carried into the circulation, it is said then to be constitutional, and generally arises from gonorrhœa or chancre. It is capable, however, of being taken into the constitution without either of these being produced— as from a part of the glans penis, or without any previous local effect there. It may be taken also by being applied to common ulcers, sometimes without altering them; and, lastly, by wounds, which, however, first become ulcers. It has been supposed that it may get into the constitution by other channels, viz. the breath, sweat, &c. but this is erroneous. The term constitution does not appear to be strictly proper here as in the case of fever, &c. In consequence of the constitution being contaminated we should naturally



naturally expect that the local effects would be the same with the original that produced them, but this is not the case. The attack upon the nose, mouth, &c. is by ulceration, but is not attended with much pain or inflammation, as in the case of cancer. It is different not only in its appearance, but in its mode of action—the matter of the former is not being a poison. The breath, the sweat, and milk, were all supposed to contain the venereal matter; but it is found now that secretions are not affected with the poison; it is necessary that there should be venereal inflammation.—The venereal matter, when taken into the stomach, is capable of being digested, and does no harm in this way—as the case of the boy who drank the milk and water in which chancres had been bathed without being affected with it, sufficiently proves. And the case of the lady likewise, who by mistake swallowed the basin of milk and water which her lover had washed his chancre with; it was eight hours before she took ipecac: and before it began to operate, and yet no bad effects ensued. It is also supposed that a fetus in the womb of a pocky mother may be affected with the disease; but I much doubt this. If it does happen, which is in a certain way conceivable, it is from the poison being conveyed to the child, in the course of absorption, without being changed. But it is said further, that a diseased child sucking the breast of a clean woman, may disease her; this I do not believe;



believe, for the saliva has not the power of communicating the disease; — if the child, however, was first affected at the mouth, receiving disease in the birth, the sores being of the nature of chancres; under such circumstances I conceive that the disease may be communicated by the child to the nurse.

The saliva not being infectious in this case, is extremely different from the poison of a mad dog, where the saliva especially contains it.

The blood of a pocky person is not capable of giving the disease to another by inoculation. When the venereal gets into the constitution, it then produces many local effects in different parts of the body; how far the matter of these is venereal is not yet ascertained, we would naturally suppose it would be so, as mercury cures both a chancre and a pox; — There is reason, however, for believing that this matter, which is constitutionally local, is not venereal, for it never produces buboes in the manner of the other. Thus there is no buboes in the glands of the neck when the throat is affected with a venereal ulcer; nor in the arm-pit from venereal sores upon the arm. But if the matter from interior local is applied to those, the glands in the arm-pit will swell. It may be said that absorption does not go on in the former case, but this is not easily conceived. The matter of a gonorrhoea or chancre is capable of affecting a man locally who is already pocked; this I have proved more than once.

Many



Many of the cases in infants, supposed to be venereal, are not so; - we must frequently look into anomalous diseases, which are without end, to explain them. - Case of an infant who died of excoriations in the skin, and thickened and inflamed intestines; this was very curious in so young an infant, but could not be attributed to the venereal disease. - The nurse's breast inflamed three weeks after the death of the infant, whom she suckled. The physician who attended her said that it was venereal; and that she had been giving suck to a pocky child; but this was all wrong, as the event of the cure proved; for mercury did not alter the sores for the better; indeed many new ones broke out during its use. - She was at length cured by good diet, air, and omitting mercury. This case shews how cautious medical men should be in giving a decided opinion on these occasions. - Diseases rise up now and then and die away; - they are poisons, but many of them not venereal.

### Of the local Effects arising from the Constitution considered critical.

It is not certain how far these are with a view to rid the constitution of the disease. - The gonorrhœa and chancre seem to be with a view of this kind; but nature having no provisions against poisons, these therefore fail. A pox continues to increase till it is cured by medicine;



medicine; for the matter, when taken into the constitution, produces an action which is capable of being continued. By attending to these circumstances we may distinguish venereal from other affections that are confounded with it. It is a maxim with me, that when appearances similar to the pox, blotches, &c. go off and come on again, then disappear, and soon, that they are not venereal; for if they were, they would continue to increase until cured: and yet again, during a course of mercury fresh eruptions appear, others healing up. I set the complaint down as different from lues venerea; and by forming my opinion from this circumstance, I have scarcely ever failed of having been confirmed.

Of two Genera never interfering with one another.

If a man is poxed from a gonorrhoea or chancre, these are affected with it. A gonorrhoea may be cured without a chancre being cured, and vice versa. Either a gonorrhoea or chancre may be cured while the constitution is still affected; but if the constitution is cured, the cancer will be cured also. This disease seldom or never interferes with other diseases; but the common symptoms are in a degree according to the constitution. Symptoms similar



similar to the venereal disease may be produced by any irritable cause as stimulating injection and bougies produce swelled testicles and buboes, which are sympathetic, as they often are from the gonorrhoea, particularly the swelled testicle.

### Specific Distance of the Venereal Disease.

The specific local diseases have their specific distance for action: accordingly the venereal inflammation has its distance. This action is circumscribed; sometimes it continues to affect a small space until cured; at other times it spreads, and when it becomes more general it appears to be blended with inflammatory eruptions. The measles, small-pox, itch, &c. are similar to it.

### What Parts are most susceptible of the second Genus of this Disease.

Many parts appear not to be susceptible of it at all, i.e. primarily, as the brain, heart, liver, kidney, &c. The lungs, however, have been affected with it; this may depend in a great measure upon their being an external surface; but more of this hereafter. Some are much sooner affected than others, i.e. more susceptible of it. I shall therefore make two divisions



divisions, as the first and second, in order of susceptibility, and an intermediate one. This difference must arise from some properties in the parts themselves, for we cannot suppose that the poison is more determined to some parts than to others. The skin, the tonsils, inside of the mouth, nose and throat, form the first order; the pericostum, face, and bones, form the second; these becoming affected when the disease is in an advanced state. It is certain that those parts which are most exposed to cold, as the skin, &c. take on the venereal action most readily; the bones are affected in proportion as they are harder and situated nearer the skin; thus the fore part of the tibia would appear to sympathise with the action which the cold produces on the skin.

The parts that are actually cold come first into action, and then such as are nearest to those; from which we may easily explain why the disease is so much milder and easily cured in warm climates than in cold. One would suppose that those parts most easily affected with this disease would be the worst in the advanced stage of it; - but this is not the case.



case, and cannot well be accounted for - unless that a part having undergone the action for a length of time, or frequently, loses the susceptibility it had at first.

### Some Facts respecting the Cure.

The first affected parts are easiest of cure, so that these may be cured and the secondary not, although these last have not produced or their visible action. A part once perfectly cured is never irritated again by the same constitution; though probably some other part of the constitution is still under this irritation, and a part secondarily affected may carry on the disease, while the part which was first affected keeps well.

### The Cause of this poisonous Quality in the first Genus considered.

I shall consider this point in two lights, viz. Whether it is formed and continued in consequence of an action of the solids; - it has been supposed by some that it arose from a fermentation; and it must be confessed that it is not easy to determine on which of the two it depends. Venereal matter has the power of inflaming the skin, which common matter has not. A man with a gleet who is connected with a woman who has the venereal, does not always have the gleet turned into a clap. The effects produced by



by the venereal matter appears to me to arise from its peculiar or specific irritation, joined with a susceptibility in the parts irritated. - Upon the whole it appears to be a more specific irritation than any kind of fermentation; for by producing another irritation we may remove it. The dog, ape, and bitch, are not capable of being affected with the venereal poison, which I have proved by many experiments, having applied lint soaked in venereal matter to the vagina of each, without effect.

### Compared with other Poisons.

The hydrophobia poison would seem to be a specific irritation capable of inducing a particular mode of action, and that capable of being communicated to another. So also it is with the small-pox, and with contagious fevers.

### The Manner in which this Disease is caught.

Every infectious disease has its peculiar manner of being caught. The anus, nose, mouth, nipples, &c. of women, are capable of first being attacked, under particular circumstances, as well as the organs of generation. The manner the nipples are affected is from children sucking them who have received the disease in the birth, the venereal poison being previously applied to the mouth, so as to form the local there.

Venereal



## Venereal Gonorrhoea.

This arising from a venereal action on a secreting surface, is most commonly attended with inflammation. The common seat of this action in men is the urethra, but sometimes takes place in the prepuce and glans penis: - in women, the vagina, urethra, labia, &c. &c.

### Of its Attack upon the Glans.

When it attacks this part, (and perhaps on other external parts) it is generally about the root of that body where the cuticle is thinnest: it produces a soreness and tenderness in the part, with a secretion of thin matter, and is often so slight as not to be observed. - Case of a gentleman who was connected with a woman of the town applied to M<sup>r</sup>. H. for a running which came on in four days from an excoriation of the glans penis, which was clearly of the venereal kind. When the glans, i.e. the part spoken of, takes on the irritation, it rests there, and does not go any further, i.e. not to the urethra.

### The most probable Way it attacks the Urethra.

I suspect that it is translated from the glans to the urethra, or at least from the beginning or lips of the urethra to its inner surface; for it is impossible



impossible to conceive that the matter could be conveyed into the urethra in the act of coition. The case of Col. B; he received the infection and had a bad gonorrhoea from sitting on a necessity in Germany, where a plaister with venereal matter stuck to his penis. When it attacks the urethra it seldom extends farther than an inch and a half along the canal; pain is produced, and a discharge of matter.

### Of the Inflammation.

It can hardly be called an inflammation when in a common degree: the secretion of the pus with a little inflammation depends on the parts being in a secreting state. When suppuration is produced, there, is commonly a stop to the inflammation. The first appearance in general is the itching, together with the fulness of the lips of the urethra; a running then comes on, and the itching by degrees changes to pain, which is increased on the patient's making water. The order in which the symptoms appear is not always the same, the running sometimes appearing some days before the pain, &c. The particular symptoms are, a great fulness of the penis at this time, and the extravasations of the fluids in the reticular membrane of the glans gives it a kind of transparent appearance; it is most remarkably tender at times, and an excution, particularly about the entrance of the urethra,



is not unfrequent; this canal becomes tightened as the smallness of the stream of urine proves: it is, in fact, in a spasmodic or halfcontracted state. The irregularity of the urethra occasions the smallness of the stream of urine. But this circumstance is not confined to the gonorrhoea, the glans of the urethra are sometimes swelled so as to be plainly at the outside along the lower surface of the penis; these now and then suppurate, and form a chain of abscesses. — When they break internally, internal ulcers must be consequently formed. If cowpers glands suppurate, then fistula in perineo may be expected.

## Discharge.

It is generally a whitish watery fluid, then becomes yellow, greenish, &c. When examined upon a cloth different kinds of mucus are observed; the circumference pale, and the center thick and of a deep colour, &c. It is probable that those different tinges depend most commonly upon the extravasation of a smaller or greater quantity of red blood. The matter has a smell seemingly peculiar to itself, and there is great tendency in it to putrefaction, being produced by an unsound inflammation. The ducts leading from the glands of the urethra have been found full of matter, upon dissection of those who have died with the infection upon them. They only come from the surfaces, which is the seat of the pain; for if matter was situated



ated in the bulb, it would be thrown out in the jerks by the accelerator muscles, which being irritated a spasmodic affection of these sometimes happens in the gonorrhœa. After making water, a soreness is occasionally felt along the course of the urethra, and even as far as the anus. This, though somewhat of a similar nature, is yet different from the chordee; frequent erections taking place also during the course of the complaint.

## Of the Bleeding.

When the inflammation is violent, we often have some of the vessels of the urethra ruptured, and consequently a discharge of blood, which is most considerable after making water, and now and then at other times also. This relieves commonly at the time, giving a check to the inflammation, and thus relieving chordees on some occasions.

## Chordee.

It is evidently of two kinds, one truly inflammatory, the other spasmodic. When the inflammation attacks the reticular substance, connecting the cells of the corpus spongiosum and corpora cavernosa is thrown forth, this part is bent at the time of erection.

The



The spasmodic comes and goes; at one time the erection is free from it, at other times accompanied with it; while the inflammatory is more constant.

### Of the Parts that commonly sympathise.

The neighbouring parts commonly sympathise, producing a variety of symptoms, such as an uneasy sensation partaking of soreness, &c. uneasiness throughout the pelvis and about the hips, and an irritable state of the testicles, making it necessary that they should be suspended. The glands in the groin are sometimes only sympathetically affected. When the disease is violent, and extending inflammation along the whole of the urethra, there is great pain in the perinaeum, attended with spasms of the accelerator urine muscles, which occasions the urine to be voided by jerks; cowpers glands becoming now and then affected, running into a state of suppuration, and occasioning fistula in perinaeo. The bladder is likewise & sometimes affected, the ureters also, and even the kidneys sympathise at times, when the bladder is much disordered either with inflammation or irritation. To the effects enumerated may be added pains in the thighs,  
abdominal



abdominal muscles, and vomiting; indeed, the whole constitution, in some irritable persons, occasionally becomes affected.

## Of the Swelled Testicle..

This is very common, and only sympathetic, and not therefore to be considered venereal, as the same affection may be produced by bougies, &c. The patient first perceives an increase in the size of the testicle, and finds upon examination that it is soft, pulpy, and tender; at length it becomes hard, and swells considerably, particularly the epididymus. The spermatic cord is sometimes affected; the vas differs particularly, which is exceedingly sore. Pain in the small of the back, with weakness in the loins and small of the back and pelvis, attend the complaint; the origins of the nerves sympathizing with the extremities. Sicknefs, vomiting, with impaired digestion, flatulency, and cholicky pains of the intestines, then succeed, forming a curious chain of sympathetics. I have known the buttocks swell, now and then, in these cases, & but it is not an inflammatory swelling. The reason the running stops is because the sympathiser destroys the action of the sympathent; but



But this, (the stoppage of the urine) does not always happen, for it is sometimes increased rather than diminished; stranguary commonly attends when it stops. It is worthy of remark, that the swelled testicle more frequently takes place when the inflammation has previously abated or is nearly gone, than when the inflammation has ~~previously abated~~, or is ~~nearly gone~~ is nearly at the height. To conclude what I have to say on this subject at present, I must remark, that it appears to me that this affection of the testicle is always sympathetic, never depending upon the presence of venereal matter in the organ. In short, I will venture to say that there never was such a thing as a venereal testicle. I have known the gout produce a swelling of the testicle, and the cancer and scrophula also, but more slowly than in the other case.

### Sympathetic Swelling of the Glands.

The glands of the groin sometimes swell in gonorrhoea, and many of them are sympathetic, being attended with little pain, and do not suppurate. They should always be suspected, however, as now and then we meet with true venereal buboes from this cause, viz. gonorrhoea. The manner in which we judge that many of these



these are sympathetic only, is, because they have frequently disappeared without the use of mercury. I once knew a swelled testicle to suppurate and heal without the use of mercury, this clearly proving that it was not venereal. A long cord leading from the prepuce along the back of the penis, and often directing its course to one of the groins, sometimes takes place in gonorrhoea. This is an inflamed lymphatic, and seems to depend upon the absorption of venereal matter; in such cases the prepuce is swelled and excoriated.

## Of the great Variety of Symptoms.

They are almost endless; the discharge often comes on without any pain, nor is there pain from beginning to end. In some cases it comes and goes, being severe at one time and slight at another. The itching in some continues to the end. On the other hand the pain is sometimes very considerable and troublesome, but little discharge. The glands of the groin, the testicle, stomach, liver, pelvis, and indeed the whole constitution, occasionally sympathize. The symptoms sometimes appear in a few hours, at others in thirty six hours, and again not till six weeks. The time it most generally affects is about six, eight, ten, or twelve days, though some are



are affected much earlier, and others considerably later. The inflammatory state now and then takes place for some time before there is any discharge, which is unfavourable, the running being a step towards a cure. - Case of a man in whom the symptoms did not appear for four weeks after the application of the poison. I suspect, & however, that they never remain wholly unactive for such a length of time, but excite an uncommon veneration in the parts, and perhaps a very slight degree of inflammation, &c. so as scarcely to be observed. The specific symptoms of this disease are so very few that it is not always easy to distinguish between gonorrhoea and that which is not. I have known the urethra to sympathise in this way during the cutting of a tooth; - (this happened to the same boy twice or thrice); - and it is well known that the gout will produce the same effect. I have seen rheumatism give rise to a similar effect also.

### Return of the Gleet.

The urethra, after it has been pretty much accustomed to the disease, is capable of taking on similar symptoms very readily, so that in some there are frequent returns of the discharge, and these in general abate spontaneously. This discharge is sometimes suspected



pected to be a fresh infection, or proceeds from bad treatment of the original clap; but this is an erroneous opinion.

## Gonorrhœa in Women.

It is not complicated in them as in men, but more difficult to ascertain. The parts being also subject to fluor albus, it is sometimes absolutely impossible to distinguish between the gonorrhœa and fluor albus—for the appearance of the matter throws no true light on the nature of the disease; the same may be said with the quantity of the discharge and the appearance of the parts. In forming an opinion, therefore, we should, if possible, take into consideration whether the woman has been affected connected with a suspicious man, and whether she is capable of communicating the disease or not. We see clearly that a woman may labour under this species of the disease without having it. It is very obscure in them, being situated chiefly in the vagina, and this part not being very sensible to inflammation. The labia, &c. is sometimes so sore as not to bear touching, nor can the patient walk, and the discharge of urine is attended with considerable pain. The bladder is now and then affected also, but not the ovaria, as some have supposed. Hard swellings of the coarser glands sometimes occur, these



these suppurating and forming abscesses. The matter in some runs down the perinaeum to the anus, producing gonorrhœa or chancre there. Case of a woman who had the symptoms of a gonorrhœa attended with a bearing down, and a constant desire to void the urine; she was also troubled with flatulency and disorders in the stomach and bowels, which seemed to be sympathetic, with a disease of the uterus.

The appearance of the parts will seldom determine whether the woman has the complaint or not, without there are chancres also near the os externum, &c. The disease continues sometimes in the vagina for years without extending any further, or without being cured or the disease wearied out, as in men. A man may be connected with a woman, and contract the disease, without the woman being even diseased; for the venereal matter may have been only deposited on the parts by the last person that was connected with her.

### The Effects of this Disease on the Constitution of both Sexes.

The disease I have been describing in both men and women, is entirely local, and is confined wholly to the parts affected; but it often, if not always, happens that the whole constitution is in some measure affected symptomatically or sympathetically in both. We often find (in



(in some more than others) before there is any appearance of matter from the parts, that the patients have complained of small rigours; these are more strongly marked in those who have the suppuration appearing late after the infection, has really taken hold of the part. I met once with a remarkable case of this kind: it was attended with rigours, slow fevers, restlessness, &c. several weeks previous to the discharge. - This disease cannot be communicated except by matter, for the above gentleman had connection with his wife before the discharge appeared, and was afraid he had given her the disease; - this, however, was not the case.

### Of a Gonorrhœa without Infection.

Many of the gonorrhœas we meet with in men are not venereal; for the discharge of the fluor albus in woman is sometimes extremely acrid, and by stimulating the glans penis may produce sympathy in the urethra, &c. I have seen a case that was clearly of this kind.

### General Observations on the Cure of the first Species of the first Genus, or Gonorrhœa.

The cure of this is very uncertain; the indication is to destroy the disposition and specific mode of action in the solids of the parts; and as they alter the poisonous quality of the matter produced



produced will alter also; we are possessed of no specific for this species of the disease; it is happy, therefore, that time is the common specific. It is capable of curing itself; and I believe it is not more than once in a dozen times that we do any service in these cases. I sometimes order bread pills only, and find the patient gets well under the use of them; in general, as soon as under any thing else. The internal <sup>remedies</sup> recommended by practitioners are chiefly evacuents and astringents. Diuretics have been recommended by some, and nitre has been given with this view, but I rather suspect with very little advantage. The keeping the bowels gently open is advisable in health, therefore so in this disease. I have seen a gonorrhoea cured by a brisk purge of calomel, and this must have operated, I conceive, on the principle of derivation. Mercury seems to have no specific virtue in this species of the disease. Diuretics certainly have their advantages, but water is the best; - it may be taken in the form of tea, orgeat, capillaire, &c. this diminishing the number of irritable particles. - Astringents lessen the discharge, but not the venereal irritation; - the specific balsams (i.e. specific on the parts, not on the disease) are therefore sometimes serviceable.

### Local Applications.

They are either internal to the urethra or external.



external to the penis; they are either solid or fluid; the latter are only temporary in their application; the solid are bougies, &c. but as these induce much irritation, the less is done with them the better.

## Of Injections in general.

We are not acquainted with any specific injection, as they are but temporary applications; they should be frequently applied, especially if they agree; as often, perhaps, as every hour. The supposition of their producing constitutional disease is erroneous; for the injection, by preventing suppuration, must of course prevent the infection. I before observed that it was necessary the virus should be mixed with pus in order to fit it for action; now if injections prevent suppuration, it must of course prevent absorption.

Injections may be divided into the irritating, astringent, sedative, and emollient. The specific is not found out, though mercury is commonly supposed to be such. The first species all act upon the same principle, altering the venereal irritation, destroying it, and producing a greater irritation in order to do this. The irritating quality depends in a great measure on the strength of the injections; for most of these are astringents when of a greater degree of strength. Irritating injections should not be employed where there is already too much irritation, or when the venereal inflammation has extended beyond the venereal point; for in these they may produce  
fistula.



fistula in perineo, &c. In irritable constitutions they should be avoided also, unless milder means have failed. The best kind of irritating injections is that formed by dissolving two grains of corrosive sublimate in eight ounces of water. if it should occasion much pain, &c. it will be proper to dilute it. Astringents act by lessening the discharge; they probably stimulate the contraction, and are employed at the latter end of the stage of the disease with advantage; if too strong, they rather increase than stop the discharge. The best astringent is not yet found, I am afraid. Metallic and earthy salts, &c. produce this kind of action. Seditives will always be of service, not as lesseners of the disease itself, but of the diseased action; - they act comfortably to the feeling of the part, and opium is the best of them; it may be used externally also, but, like remedies in general, it will not always answer. Sacch. Saturni gr. xv. cum Aq. Rosa Triv. is a good sedative and astringent injection. Plentiful dilution acts on the sedative principle. I generally ordered my patients to drink capillaire six or eight times a day; - it is the drink I expect most advantage from; the mucilage and sugar are, however, to be considered as vehicles for it. Emollients are of singular service, as proved by extensive practice; they are most proper when there is great inflammation; they consist chiefly of solutions of gum arabic, milk and water, and sweet oil; they act by washing away the matter, leaving something soft in its place.

External



## External Applications.

Medicated fomentations, poultices, bathing, the vapours of hot-water, mercurial water, &c. can be of little service, except when the external parts are injured, as the prepuce, glans, &c. When the swelling of the glands of the urethra is perceived externally, the Ung. Hyd. Fort. will be found extremely serviceable.

## Bleeding from the Urethra.

I have seen Bals. Copair. of service when given internally in this complaint, but injections, I believe, will do no good; may, in some cases they may rather be suspected of having produced the bleeding. The discharge of blood is sometimes useful, abating inflammation, &c. The best thing that I am acquainted with for preventing erections and alleviating the soreness of the parts, is twenty drops of tincture of opium taken at night.

## Cure of the Chordee.

Some blood may be taken from the arm, but local bleeding by means of leeches will be more serviceable. The steam of warm water and poultices, with camphor and fomentations, with opium administered internally, constitute



constitute the chief of the remedies. — When the chordee continues, after the inflammation and other symptoms have disappeared, the part should be rubbed with mercurial ointment, that the friction may assist the mercury in producing an absorption of the extravasated juices. — In some obstinate cases I have seen the cicuta serviceable, and electricity also. — The complaint sometimes goes off gradually of itself, when the remedies employed have failed. — In spasmodic chordees evacuations are to be avoided; — the bark should chiefly be relied on, and in such cases I have seen it produce good effects. — Suppuration of the glands of the urethra are in effect chancres, and therefore require to be treated with mercury. When cowpers glands suppurate, it is necessary to open them freely; here, too, the same remedy must be had recourse to.

### Cure of the Bladder.

When the disease extends here, it is exceedingly troublesome, but not dangerous, except a foundation (which I believe to be the case) be laid for future irritations in the part. In the first place bleed in the perineum with leeches; — then administer  
opiate



opiate clysters, and give opium internally also; the warm bath, too, will sometimes be necessary; but bleeding in general will not agree with the complaint. It is more of a sympathetic and irritable nature than of an inflammatory one. An opening plaister to the pukeis or to the back, at the origin of the nerves, may be tried; and, in some bad cases, a blister to the perineum. This complaint will in general gradually give way.

### Cure of the Testicle.

A state of rest will greatly contribute, and the horizontal position more particularly. — It is to be treated in a similar manner to other inflammatory complaints. Bleeding, purging, &c. according to the state of the constitution. Vomits have been recommended, and may sometimes be serviceable; — they were probably at first thought of from the affect which the affection of the testicle had upon the stomach. I have found vomits act now and then in a wonderful manner in hernia hui moralis, affording an almost instantaneous relief. If the testicles suppurate, it is to be treated as a common suppuration; mercury not being necessary.

### Of the subsiding of the Swelling of the Testicle.

The epididymus seldom recovers entirely; this, however, is not productive of much inconvenience;



venience, but the duct is now and then obliterated. I have known both the epididymis remain hard after swelling of the testicles, and the person was capable, notwithstanding, of evacuating his serum.

## The Cure in Women

Is more simple than in men, though on a similar principle. When the disease is confined to the vagina, Injections are very useful; after the use of these mercury should be applied as far as it could be got up, according to custom. It is necessary to wash the parts very frequently. The same injections are employed in women as in men; they should, however, be made twice as strong, the parts being less irritable than in men. It is very difficult to fix the date of the cure. When the glands are affected, the mercurial ointment should be applied freely; if they suppurate it is necessary to enlarge them; and then dress them in the same manner as chancres and buboes.

## Of the Constitution in the Cure of the Gonorrhoea in both Sexes.

The constitution, in many cases, should be attended to as much, if not more, than the parts; and the same method of treatment in every constitution will by no means answer; Bala. Cop. for instance, will sometimes increase the symptoms in one person which it will cure in another. If the patient is plethoric, he should lose blood, take gentle purging medicine, keep at rest, and live



live sparingly; and so it is with the constitution, that if put in the way it will cure itself. In low, weak, and irritable constitutions the symptoms are very violent; instead of evacuating such the strengthening is most advisable. I have known a fever cure a gonorrhoea, though in some cases it will only suspend it; - but so whimsical is the disease that I have known gonorrhoea now and then increased by fever. There are at times cases to be met with in which scarce any thing can be thought of that will afford the least relief. —

Astringent gums, as Sang. Dracon, &c. have been given by some, but with little effect. The Terebinthinate, as Balsam Canada, Copava, &c. may be sometimes administered with advantage. Besides the difference in constitution, the way of living, and circumstance of being with other diseases, &c. create a difference also. Exercise, spirituous liquors, and strong indigestible food, all increase the complaint.

The cure of gonorrhoea may be assisted by obviating obstacles, as by abating irritation, promoting equal circulation, &c. Whatever method has been pursued it is always necessary to have an eye to the possibility of absorption having taken place; and at the end of the complaint, therefore, either to take mercury or rub it in in a moderate quantity. I generally order one grain of Merc. Calc. to be taken every night for about twenty nights, this acting on the surest ground, and is certainly proper; notwithstanding we allow that the very face would be poisoned from gonorrhoea even without this remedy.

Signs



## Signs of Cure.

An abatement of all the before mentioned symptoms points out a decrease of the disease, such as the matter diminishing in quantity and becoming slimy, &c. the redness of the glans penis changing to a pale colour, and the pain and tenderness abating, &c. The symptoms return with as great or greater violence than before, and now and then even at the distance of a month. How far the complaint, under such circumstances, is to be considered venereal or not, is not yet ascertained; it can only be determined by making the experiment with a sound person. The means of distinguishing between a gonorrhœa and gleet are certainly not yet ascertained, an abatement of inflammation not being sufficient constitute the latter, if even the discharge should be slimy; for a gentleman who had a gonorrhœa was connected with his wife, not however until the inflammatory symptoms had entirely abated; he notwithstanding gave her the disease. — Case also of a gonorrhœa that was contracted in April; — all the symptoms soon went off, except the hardness of the epididymus and a small discharge of mucus; three months from the beginning he married, and in a short time his wife was infected with the disease.

Consequence



## Consequence of a Venereal Gonorrhoea, or Symptoms which often remain after the Disease is subdued.

Some of the symptoms subside, before the venereal virus is destroyed, others continue long, and even through life. Gleet answers to the last description; they are sometimes cured by that which produces them; viz. inflammation, strange sensation in the urethra and glands, more especially if the bladder has been affected, frequently remaining after gonorrhoea. These are often very troublesome, and make patients the dupes of ignorant and designing men.

### Cure.

The same remedy will not always answer in some cases. A bougie passed two or three times is sufficient—or an irritating injection, one grain of corrosive sublimate in eight ounces of rose water. Cicuta will relieve same.—Blister to the perineum is in general very efficacious; a blister to the small of the back will also relieve, but not so effectually. Case of a Portuguese gentleman, who had frequent desire to make water, constant pain in the region of the bladder, pain in the perineum, uneasiness in the testicles, and pain when he brought his thighs together;—his complaint was supposed to be calculus, and he was examined by the staff; but



but neither stone, stricture, nor enlargement of the prostate could be discovered; a blister to the perinaeum relieved him, but he got a fresh gonorrhoea a fortnight afterwards. The symptoms above did not return, though he expected they would. Here then was no change in the stricture of the parts, but an unnatural or diseased action in them. Case of a servant who had a strange sensation in making water, with ~~it~~ running, &c. and a blister to the perinaeum cured him. In obstinate stranguaries also a blister is a good remedy, especially when opium and other remedies fail.

### Of the Gleet.

Whatever method has been made use of for the cure of the venereal inflammation, it often happens that the formation of pus continues; - this after a time is perfectly innocent with respect to infection; - the virus, I believe, never returns, although the discharge, &c. is sometimes increased. - This affection, viz. the gleet, is not peculiar to weak or relaxed constitutions, as has been supposed. It is not produced by gonorrhoea only, for other diseases of the urethra will occasion it, as strictures, &c. To discover whether the stricture be the cause, a small bougie should be passed; - if no stricture can be discovered it is most probable that the prostate is diseased.

Cure.



## Cure.

As it has no specific property, there can be no certain or fixed mode of cure. A change in the action of the parts may be produced by various means, some agreeing with one person and not with another. The complaint may be attacked in three ways, either constitutionally, locally, or symptomatically.

## Powers of Medicine taken internally.

This I shall divide into specifics, strengtheners, and astringents. By specific I mean such medicine as produces a specific action into the parts; - these are balsams, turpentine, cantharides, &c. When the balsams do service it can be perceived in a very few days. I seldom continue them more than six or seven days, unless advantages are perceived. To the head of strengtheners belong sea and cold bathing, bark, steel, &c. To the head of astringents, astringent gums, sal martis, &c. This last, viz astringents, may sometimes do harm by affecting certain natural actions.

## Of the Power of Medicine when locally applied.

Of the first, or specific; these perhaps act in a more favourable manner when applied



plied locally, as the balsams, tar water, &c. use as injections;—the manner in which they operate I should suppose to be that of inducing a different kind of action, for they cannot be supposed to act chemically. Of the second or astringents: decoctions of bark, vitriol. alb. lead, &c. The remedies should be continued a considerable length of time after the symptoms disappear. When astringents are first used their effects should be observed;—if they produce a good effect they should be continued for a long time, so as to induce a different action in the parts from that which they had been so long used to be; after which they take on a healthy action. If astringents are found not to agree, they ought to be omitted. To the third, viz. violent, belong a solution of corrosive sublimate made so strong as to irritate, bougies, exercise, &c. these are to be employed when other and milder means fail. Case in which an ounce of Extract. Saturni thrown up the urethra cured a gleet of two years standing, first, however, producing considerable inflammation. Two or three grains of corrosive sublimate to half a pound of water will answer a similar purpose; or the cure may be attempted by bougies, continued about a month or six weeks. The bougies should be about six inches long;

### Cure of the Gleet by Derivation or Sympathy

This is by producing an irritation in another part of the body in order to destroy the



the mode of action in the diseased part. The irritation produced by chancre, in one instance, put a stop to the gonorrhoea; this derivation is best affected by blisters to the underside of the urethra; electricity, &c. A man not accustomed to drinking may get well by an excess in this particular; although it will be prudent and advisable to live temperately during the treatment of the complaint. A long journey on horseback has now and then cured a gleet in a person not accustomed to riding.

### Gleet in Women.

Most of what has been said on this complaint already will apply to women as well as men; the use of the bougie excepted more particularly.

### Remaining Chordee.

This sometimes continues after every other symptom of the virus is removed. Mercurial ointment with camphor should be tried, and if these fail, electricity, which last will often remove it.

### Hardness of the Epididymis.

This is not productive of any ill consequence,



sequence, for if the vas deferens should ever be obstructed the inconvenience will not be great, since one testicle is sufficient to carry on the purpose of generation. Sitting over the steam of warm water with camphor in it, together with the application of mercurial ointment and camphor to the scrotum will sometimes remove the hardness; - the cure, however, will be exceedingly tedious.

## Decay of the Testicle.

The testicles are circumstanced in a similar manner with the teeth, being parts separated for particular purposes, and are so far different from most of the other parts of the animal machine. They sometimes waste in cases of hernia and hydrocele, and this is to be explained by considering the pressure which they are subject to under such circumstances; but they now and then decrease without any such cause, just becoming enflamed and enlarged. This does not seem to arise from any venereal affection. In such cases I would recommend the trial of electricity; and in order to prevent an evil of this nature, it may not be amiss to advise a little attention to the natural action of the parts. Case of a young man, only nineteen years of age, both of whose testicles unfortunately wasted.

Of



## Of the Continuance of the Irritation of the Bladder.

This may be continued in consequence of strictures or a diseased prostate gland. To determine with certainty, a bougie should be introduced into the urethra, and the prostate should also be examined with the finger up the rectum. When the bladder is affected only, the pain is felt chiefly towards the seat of pain in making water. The remedies to be applied here are opiates, clysters, cicuta, bark, sea-bathing, and a blister to the perinaeum.

## Of the Diseases which are supposed to arise in consequence of the Venereal Inflammation in the Urethra.

First, obstructions in the urethra. — Of obstruction to the passage of the urine in all cases the area of the canal is lessened. — The means of producing this effect I shall divide into five heads or kinds: first, the true or permanent strictures; second, the mict, consisting partly of spasm; thirdly, the truly spasmodic; fourth, excrescences in the passage; — fifth, pressure of the contiguous swelling, swelling of the prostate gland, &c. This obstruction to the passage of the urine is commonly attended with a discharge of matter resembling a gleet, and



and this discharge is considered by the patient as the whole of the disease. The stream of urine becomes scattered or forked, and is small in proportion to the obstruction, sometimes coming away only in drops. A bougie should be introduced by way of instructions, under these circumstances. A stricture is sometimes the immediate cause of calculus.

## Of the first, or Permanent Stricture.

In this disease there is a contraction of some part or parts of the urethra; the patient commonly finds it out by the stream of urine becoming smaller and smaller, and in this situation the stone and gravel are often suspected. The contracted part, when examined, is found hard in its consistence, and white. There is generally one stricture only, though I have seen five or six in the same urethra: indeed, in passing the bougie we can often discover small tightnesses in different parts. Strictures are slow in forming, and are worst in cold weather. The immediate cause of them cannot be assigned; I believe they seldom arise from the venereal disease, though it will be difficult to open people's eyes on this subject, there being but few persons, at some time or other, but have had the venereal disease, though it is difficult to distinguish between the two diseases.

My reason for not supposing them in consequence of gonorrhoea, is, that the oesophagus, duct choledochus, intestines, &c. are occasionally



onally affected with the same disease; another reason is, that I have had a patient with strictures who never had the gonorrhoea; - further, a gentleman has just perceived one who has not had a gonorrhoea for thirty or forty years; - again, the most general seat of the stricture is in the membranous and bulbous part; but the gonorrhoea is most commonly seated in the *Cavum magna*. They never arise during the venereal inflammation. I have also frequently known patients labour under strictures who never employed injections, though these are improperly considered as the cause by some; a bougie is more severe than an injection, and yet these are never blamed; - the healing of an ulcer in gonorrhoea has been improperly considered as the cause, for such ulcers seldom or never occur in the urethra. - I never found one myself in examining those that have died at the time they had gonorrhoea upon them. Strictures are sometimes rendered worse by a small stone passing as far as the strictured part and lodging there. Strictures are at times the cause of the stone in the bladder, and this seems to depend on the retention of wind which they occasion.

### Carbuncles or Excrecences.

Some have supposed these frequently exist in



in the urethra; but that this term was originally only ideal, and has been handed down as a matter of course. I have, however, seen two cases of strictures of long standing, in each of which there was a substance in the urethra, similar in appearance to polypi; they may, perhaps, be a species of internal warts.

### Obstructions to the Urine in Women.

These generally arise (though not always) from strictures; they may depend on pressure either without or within; I believe the stricture in them does not arise from the venereal disease. This canal, viz. the urethra, being but seldom affected. — Strictures are not so frequent in women as in men, which may arise from the urethra being shorter in them than in men, or the susceptibility not being so strong.

### Cure of the Permanent Stricture of the first kind.

The cure either consists in a dilatation of the tight end part, or a destruction of it by ulceration or escharotics; the first is only temporary. In cold weather strictures are very bad; the warm bath, therefore, by counteracting



tracting the cold, and soothing the parts to rest, is frequently of considerable service; opiate clysters should also be administered, and a blister to the perineum may be tried.

## Delatation by Mechanical Means, Viz. Bougies, acting like a Wedge.

The disease is so far advanced before the patient applies for relief, as to resist the smallest bougie; we should persevere, however, for some time in our attempts to introduce one; for the difficulty may arise in a great measure upon spasms. I have now and then succeeded by rubbing in perineo with a finger, while I was at the same time pushing on the bougie. A bougie will sometimes pass to-day and not to-morrow. It is recommended by some to attempt the introduction of it after making water, for reasons which do not strike me. In introducing a bougie, when it arrives at the stricture we should push gently, and continue pushing for some time.

Rules to know whether the Bougie bends or not, and whether it has entered the Stricture.

If it has entered the stricture, it will most probably remain at the place it was pushed;



if it recoils it is most likely, it had not entered, and will be found bent; - the appearance of the bougie gives the best information; - if it has passed into the stricture, it should be marked round the point as if it had been slightly embraced; in drawing it out, if there is a tug, it is a sign also that it has passed; - but the appearance of the bougie mentioned above, is the most certain. Some strictures require a greater nicety than any disease that becomes the object of surgery. The lacuna have sometimes been confounded with strictures by ignorant surgeons; this should always be suspected when the bougie stops near the glands. I always desire the patient to preserve the bougie for me that I may examine the point of it when I go to introduce the next; this nicety is not necessary when it passes in easy. - The time of keeping it in is to be directed by the feelings of the patient: it is often five or six weeks before it can be suffered to remain in more than five or ten minutes. The best time to introduce it is a little before bed-time, and in the morning before he gets out of bed. The size of the bougie ought to be gradually increased. We should continue passing them till the patient can pass his urine freely, and even a month after this; and after all, the cure cannot be considered as certain, for the disease is very apt to return. - When you are about to pass a bougie, bend it a little by drawing it between your finger and thumb, then



then introduce it with the ~~curved~~ part towards the abdomen. The size of the bougie should be increased quickly, more or less, according to the irritability of the patient.

### Cure of Excrecences or Carbuncles, when they occur.

I suspect they are not to be cured by the bougie, as there is no contraction. Pressure should be made on them with a large bougie, with considerable force; and if this does not answer, the caustic must be employed, provided they are conveniently situated.

### Destruction of the Stricture by Ulceration.

This may be performed by a bougie, and may be effected either when the bougie can or cannot be made to pass the stricture by means of pressure on it to such a degree as to induce absorption or ulceration; but in doing this care must be taken not to make a new canal, which will be liable to happen, for the stricture being in the thickest part of the canal, the bougie may easily step in on one side of it. This mode of treatment is tedious, but must be had recourse to, unless the caustic is preferred.

Ulcer=



## Ulcerations of the second kind.

If the smallest bougie that can be made with some degree of strength cannot pass, it is still necessary for the operation of the ulceration to apply bougie to the stricture, and to press against it till ulceration takes place. This should only be attempted in the straight part of the canal. It sometimes happens that the end of the bougie slips off the stricture before it has had time to ulcerate and make its way into the substance of the corp. spong. This may be suspected when the bougie gains ground without the patient being able to void his urine more freely. The patient should be allowed after a time to endeavour to use the bougie himself. A man who has been subject to stricture, should always be prepared for a return of them, having constantly a number of bougies by him, and never going a journey without them.

## Of the Methods used to prevent the Bougie from either passing in or out.

Its passing into the bladder is a very disagreeable circumstance. When this happens the strictures cannot be considerable. M<sup>r</sup>. Gunning



Gunning operated on a patient after the bougie passed into the bladder, and it was found entirely crusted over. To prevent the bougie passing out or in, it should be confined round the glands (rather loosely so as to allow erections) by a piece of silk fixed to a large end of the bougie, which is also to be bent, and the patient apprised of the circumstances.

### Method in which I succeeded in getting out a Bougie that had slipped into the Passage. —

When it is discovered before it has quite slipped into the bladder, it may sometimes, with a little trouble, be got away by putting your finger a little up the rectum, and preventing it from going further; then pushing the penis over it, and drawing them both together; by repeating this often, the bougie may be frequently got out. When the end of it is in the straight part of the urethra, the silver canula and forceps within it will sometimes answer. When it cannot be removed by these means, then it must be cut upon while in the urethra; for if it has got into the bladder, the operation for the stone must be performed to extract it.

### Cure in Women.

It is difficult to keep the bougie in here, and they cannot introduce it themselves. — It may be prevented



vented from slipping into the bladder by bending it over the mouth of the vagina; but I think, notwithstanding, that the caustic will be preferable.

## Of the Caustic.

This becomes necessary when the smallest bougie cannot be passed, &c. The use of it has been attended with the greatest success, so much so that I think it always preferable to the pressure of the bougie, for there is great danger of making a new passage in this last way. I succeeded with the caustic in two cases where there were several fistulous orifices in perineo, and the smallest bougie could not be introduced; the time of application is about a minute or two, and this may be repeated every day or every other day. Disagreeable symptoms sometimes arise, as a spasm, inflammation, &c. for the relief of which the means commonly employed in such cases must be had recourse to, and the caustic of course must be omitted in such for some time. The patient should make water after the application of the caustic, or some water should be injected into the urethra to wash away any small portion of the caustic that may remain. I suppose that I have relieved twenty patients by this method, that must otherwise have died. I have found applying the caustic only twice to be sufficient in several instances.

History



## History of the Application of the Caustic.

If the stricture is any where between the glans and the bending of the urethra, it is an easy matter to cure it by the caustic; it is necessary to continue it in such a manner as that the caustic will not affect any part of the canal but the urethra; for which purpose we have a silver canula, which is introduced down to the stricture with a kind of probe in it that is rounded at one end; this rounded end strikes against the stricture; the probe is then to be withdrawn, and introduced with the other end of it downwards; in this end the caustic is fastened; as soon, then, as it is kept a sufficient length of time in contact with the stricture, the probe and caustic are to be withdrawn, and after them the canula. The caustic should be thus applied for one or two minutes every other day till the end is answered, or such symptoms arise as require it to be laid aside.

## Supposed Consequences of the Venereal Disease, continued.

Strictures attended with spasmodic Affections.

There are few strictures but are attended with spasms,



spasms, though some more so than others; sometimes indeed the spasms are more the disease than the stricture itself. Bougies are the temporary cure here, as in the former; it will be necessary, however, to employ antispasmodics occasionally. It sometimes happens that the bougie cannot be passed; in such cases it will be best to let it remain in the urethra not quite so far as the stricture, and after it has been there some minutes to try again, when in general it may be passed.

### Whether or not the Bougie should be passed into the Bladder.

The common opinion is, that it had better be passed into and remain in the bladder; but I think, in the generality of cases, it had better not go quite in, particularly with a gravelly subject. In some persons, if a bougie is suffered to remain an hour or two in the bladder, the end of it will be encrusted, so great is the disposition of some to form calculi. Such persons should use a good deal of exercise.

### Of the Complaints in consequence of the Irritations of Bougies.

They sometimes produce strange effects on being first passed, as sickness and fainting, discharge of matter, sympathetic swelling in the groin, not suppurating; pain in one or both testicles, swelling of the testicles, &c. all going



going off after the patient is a little used to their introduction.

## Consequences of the improper Application of Bougies.

If the bougie should happen to make a new passage, the mischief is very considerable; - we should therefore cautiously guard against such an accident; but if it should take place, the proper practice is to make an external opening.

### Operation.

Pass a staff as far as it will go, which will be almost into the new-formed passage; - then cut upon it either an inch before the scrotum or one inch and a half beyond it. If the staff has passed into the new passage before the scrotum, as it most likely will, into the corpus cavernosum; - but if beyond the scrotum it will be below the urethra; - thus in the latter the new-formed one will be first cut into, and the urethra afterwards. In the first case, after I have cut beyond the stricture, I pass a canula from behind forward till it comes to the stricture, where it will stop; I then pass another canula from before backwards, so that the mouths of the canulas will be opposite each other, and the stricture between them; in this way a bougie or other body may be passed



passed without being possible to tear a new passage. By this method I prosecute the opening of the natural passage, and heal the wounds made into the new-formed passage as any other wound, taking care to keep the urethra open with bougies.

### Of Diseases in consequence of a permanent Stricture in the Urethra.

The parts between the stricture and bladder often become affected, viz. cowpers glands and surrounding cellular membrane, prostate gland, bladder, ureters, and even the pelvis of the kidney.

### Of the Gleet in consequence of a Stricture.

It arises from the constitutional irritation which is occasioned by the retension of urine, &c. and will be cured when the stricture is cured; if not, the general means that were recommended when on the subject of gleet, must be tried.

### Of the Method Nature takes to relieve herself.

Nature finding an obstruction to the natural way for the urine, relieves herself by ulceration,



ulceration, which generally takes place near the stricture, insomuch that the stricture is sometimes involved in it, and a cure follows, for the urine passing freely the natural way, the ulceration stops; this ulceration, as usual, happens nearest the external surface, and is attended with little inflammation.

### Of the Cure of the first, or Ulceration, and its Consequence.

When ulceration does not destroy the stricture, but goes on, the urine gets into the cellular membrane and produces great inflammation, and sometimes mortification. — The only method of putting a stop to the ulceration is by destroying the stricture, which must be done as speedy as possible.

While these means are using for opening the natural passage, we should make proper attempts to relieve the inflammation, such as bleeding, sitting over the steam of warm water, the warm bath, opium by the mouth and anus; but all these being often insufficient, an operation is necessary in order to prevent the further diffusion of urine into the cellular membrane. The operation consists in passing an instrument down to the stricture, cutting upon and continuing beyond the stricture. When the stricture is beyond the scrotum the incision must be made in perinaeo; the hollow bougie should then be kept in and the wound healed over;



over; the urine being a great irritation to the cellular membrane, bringing on mortification, &c. Dressings of opium may be proper, in addition to what was before recommended. If suppuration takes place, the part should be opened early.

## Second Method of Relief, or Abscess in Perineo.

When the prostate gland, membranous part of the urethra, or bulb, are affected, either or all of them, inflammation coming on, suppuration is generally the consequence, unless the cause, viz. the stricture, can be immediately removed. These abscesses often happen externally and internally, and are intended to make a new passage for the urine, but they are often the foundation of fistula in perineo, from the inner parts healing slower than the outer. When the abscess opens externally only, then it is no more than a common abscess.

## Of the Treatment of the second, or Inflammation of the surrounding Parts.

Suppuration is too often the consequence and the sooner the abscess is opened externally the better; the opening should be large too. If the stricture is not involved in the suppuration,



purations; it should be destroyed, for the new opening cannot heal till this is accomplished. Hollow bougies are recommended after the stricture is destroyed, in order that the wound may heal; they are very inconvenient, however, and I am not very solicitous about them, for we do find, in the operation for the stone, that the passage of the urine prevents the healing of the wound.

### Of the Effects of this Inflammation on the Constitution.

They are generally considerable when near the bulb, a smart symptomatic fever, &c. ensuing. When abscesses happen near the bulb, there is a considerable degree of symptomatic fever; even the urine is diffused into the cellular membrane; it generally does great mischief, frequently producing the death of the part; under such circumstances we should chiefly employ bark and opium.

### Of the new Passages not healing, forming what is commonly called Fistula in Perineo.

This is occasioned by the stricture not being removed; every possible method should therefore be used to the stricture; - we should attempt to make the natural passage as free as possible, which being done the fistula will generally heal; if it should not, an operation must be performed, viz. that of laying the wound freely



freely open, to the bottom, so as to expose all the diseased part. The instruments required in this operation are a staff and bent probe; but a dissector is the best instrument to cut with, if it can be made to pass to the staff instead of the probe. If there are many sinusses they are to be laid open, if it can be possibly done. If the internal is opposite the scrotum it will be difficult to get at it; I think, however, that we should not be too delicate with the external parts, as they are in a state of callosity. Patients having been once in this situation should be careful not to get a fresh gonorrhoea, as this will render them more liable to a return of the complaint, which is dangerous and unmanageable.

### Danger of the Operation.

Patients now and then die in a strange manner, after this operation; this, then, is a circumstance we should keep in view.

### Of the Spasmodic Affection.

The urethra being composed of muscular structure is capable of contracting so completely as to prevent the passage of a drop of urine. When the neck of the bladder is affected it is called stranguary, and may be produced by the stimulus of cantharides, pepper, &c. When this contraction is at the worst, a large bougie can



can sometimes be got to pass. — To relieve the spasm we must have recourse to the warm bath, opiates, turpentine, camphor, &c. bark has also been recommended, but may do harm here. In addition to the remedies recommended above, we may add the steam of warm water, the pediluvium, and a blister to the perineum. To procure relief immediately the bougie or catheter may be employed; the latter, however, is a dangerous instrument in the hands of many, being only safe with those who know the course of the canal, and who from experience have acquired a dexterity in passing it; the bougie therefore is preferable when it can be got to pass. It may be suffered to remain in the passage some time, till the bladder shews a disposition to contract, when it must be withdrawn; it is favorable if the urine follows it. Should only a part of it be discharged, the bougie may be again introduced as at first. If at any time, however, it cannot be readily passed, but is rather rejected on account of the irritation of the parts, it should not be forced, but after a little time try again.

## Paralysis of the Urethra.

This is the opposite to the former, and does not so frequently occur; the urine here flows involuntarily; to cure it stimulents must be applied, as cantharides, bark, steel, spices, &c. electricity, putting the feet in cold water, dipping the parts in it also, and a blister to the loins or perineum.

Swelled



## Swelled Prostate.

This is often very formidable, for the size and shape of the gland being altered, the canal of the urethra becomes considerably affected. This disease produces symptoms similar to the stone and stricture; the sides of the urethra are squeezed together, and there is generally a projection of the neck of the bladder forward, which prevents the passage of the bougie or catheter. The complaint is attended with an irritable state of the bladder, and a difficulty in making the urine. To examine the state of the prostate gland, pass the finger up the rectum, and direct towards the pubis; - it is generally much firmer, &c. than before. When thus diseased, the flexible catheter should be preferred; if the common one is to be employed, great care should be taken in the introduction of it.

### Flexible.

A catheter made about an inch at the point is better than one entirely flexible. If the bougie is used it should be first warmed and bent. - Safe where the bougie could not be passed, but where the catheter would; at length, however, by bending bougies at the end a little they were got to pass. Opium clysters should in general be given twice a day in these cases. In two patients hemlock was of service; I advised sea-bathing also, from a supposition of the disease



disease being scrophulous, and great advantages have been experienced from it; burnt-sponge has likewise been useful in some cases. It is a very obstinate disease, and no certain plan of cure can be laid down. The action of the bladder and urethra are alternate in health, the action of the former producing relaxation in the latter; when this action ceases, the urethra then contracts; but it sometimes happens that this regularity is interrupted, the one not obeying the other; this therefore constitutes a disease; it is most frequently owing to a fault in the urethra, but sometimes to the bladder; thus the distance of time in some that are of long standing is very considerable before any urine can pass through the urethra, but in others it is quite the contrary, for the urethra will not contract, and the urine flows involuntarily.

### Diseases of the Bladder arising from the above-mentioned Obstructions to the Urine.

First, irritability with all its consequences, as thickening and an increase of strength from an increased action to overcome resistance — The abdominal muscles, and muscles of respiration having taken the alarm, are put into action, and hence pain is produced; a pain in the glans penis also attends.

Of



## Of the Cure where the Actions are not alternate.

The cure consists in removing the obstruction in the passage, on the one hand, or the irritation of the bladder on the other, according as one or the other are in fault; when it arises from spasms, opiate clysters, opium and blisters to the loins and perinaeum are to be employed. Such persons as are troubled with an irritation of the bladder should not retain their urine long, but expel it whenever there is the least inclination; indeed I think it very wrong in sound people to retain it so long as they do, for disease is thereby produced.

## Paralysis of the Bladder.

This consists in the loss of the power of contraction, and is occasioned by the retension of the urine in consequence of an obstruction to its evacuation. This obstruction may be produced in several ways, by strictures, enlarged prostates, &c.

### Cure.

The first thing to be done is to remove the immediate cause, i.e. to draw off the urine with a catheter; we are then to employ stimulents — such as turpentine clysters — and strengtheners; blisters



blisters to the back and sacrum, and to the perineum when connected with spasms. The catheter should be frequently introduced, and while in the bladder the lower part of the abdomen should be pressed by the hand of the surgeon.

### Of the increased Strength of the Bladder.

I have seen it half an inch thick, and fariculated; in stone cases it becomes considerably thickened, the irritation producing increased action, &c.

### Enlargement of the Ureters.

It may be readily imagined that when the bladder is kept distended with urine, the urine of course cannot flow so readily from the kidneys into it; the ureters are therefore enlarged preternaturally, and the pelvis and infundibula of the kidneys likewise. In some cases of long standing, where the bladder has acted with great violence, a mucus or kind of matter is produced on the internal surface, which stains linen, and the person who labours under this disease smells very disagreeably, the urine being stale before it comes out of the bladder, and the linen being constantly wet.

Of



## Of Bougies.

Their power depends upon external form and consistence, as they only act mechanically; again, the external form depends upon size and shape; the length should be two inches more than what is sufficient to reach from the glans to the stricture, so that an inch may be passed beyond the stricture, and an inch left without the bend over the glans; they should be equally tapering all the way, but only an inch or two towards the end to be introduced. When the stricture is at the bend of the urethra, they should be flexible, but in other cases this is not necessary. The consistence should vary according to the nature of the cases, &c. In making bougies the proper composition for consistence, is what ought chiefly to be considered; - wax, oil, and lithargi, make a good composition

— R<sup>y</sup> Ol. Oliv. lbij. Ceræ lbj Lithargi ℥ij  
 boiled slowly for six hours.

## Composition of Darcurs.

Take leaves of tobacco, hemlock, and St. John's wort, each a large handful, cut them small, and boil them in ten pounds of net oil, together with one pound of sheep's dung, then 3 pounds of hogs lard and the same quantity of mutton suet, stirring in gradually one pound of lithargi finely powdered, boil again, and add two pounds of bees wax; lastly, boil till



till the whole acquires a proper consistence. A good composition which I employ is of diachylon <sup>two</sup> parts and two of wax, and one of shell lac; the diachylon and lac to be first incorporated, then add the other.

### Of the Irritability of the Bladder, independent of Obstruction to the Passage of the Urine.

This often arises from local causes, as stones, cancers, and tumours. Dr. Fothergill's disease was of this kind. The actions produced by these causes kill in the end by producing hectic, &c. When irritability of the bladder is simple, i.e. unconnected with the causes mentioned above, it may be relieved by opium in the form of clysters, and by the mouth, but I should chiefly rely on a blister to the perinaeum. Patients under such circumstances should not retain their urine contrary to the inclination to discharge it.

### Seminal Weakness.

The disease thus named consists in a discharge of the mucus from the urethra after the last drops of urine, and at the time of being at stool, especially if the patient is costive. It is not, therefore, as has been supposed, but the fluid contained in the vesicula seminalis; - this I have proved by many experiments; old men are often subject to it - it is supposed to arise from a venereal cause, which cannot be easily determined, though I am disposed to think it is not so. Patients labouring under this disease are generally more affected in mind being



(being hypochondriacal) than in body, and suppose that the discharge will drain them to death; the discharge, simply, however, does not appear to weaken. I have given hemlock with advantage in this disease. Strengtheners would do to be indicated, as bark, steel, cold bathing, astringent & gums, &c. and may be tried; but the disease in general will be found extremely obstinate. It may be observed, that every organ of the human body, without exception, is made up of different parts which are so formed as to produce a succession of actions and ultimate effects; and if any irregularity in these actions takes place, it is what constitutes disease).

The parts subservient to generation in man are two; one immediate, which are the testicles; the other secondary, which is the penis. It sometimes happens that the penis is too forward in becoming erect before the testicles are subservient; and, on the contrary, the testicles will sometimes throw out semen before the penis is erect.

### Of the first, or Priapism.

This is an erection of the penis without the mind or testicles corresponding; the venereal gonorrhoea, when violent, produces this affection, and the sensation is that of pain arising from the inflammation of the parts. The spontaneous priapism is a very serious disease, and should be treated by bark, valerian, musk, camphor, cold bathing, hot bath, electricity, opium, &c.

Of



## Of the Cure of the Inflammatory Species.

Opium given by the mouth affords temporary relief, but the cure commonly takes place with the cure of the inflammation.

Too great a Readiness in the Testicles to secrete, or the reverse of the former.

This is much worse than the priapism, and still worse when the penis does not come at all into action. In all it is too quick a secretion of semen; a simple thought will sometimes make it flow; dreams often produce this evacuation, and the dream is sometimes so simple that the person is hardly conscious of it when he wakes; the least friction on the glands will produce this effect in some. I knew a young man who had this evacuation almost every night, and whenever he walked or rode on horseback also; he took the Tinct. Opii in doses of 20 drops at bed-time, which generally prevented it for that night, and by continuing the use of this remedy for some time, he perfectly recovered, after Bark and other things had failed. It is, at any rate, a truly melancholy disease, but more particularly when it proves obstinate. If opium fails, hemlock should be tried. In the young man alluded to, opium alternately applied round the glans prevented the emission.

On

\* read "externally."



On Venereal Chancres, the second species of the first genus, or local effects of the venereal poison, so called.

We come now to treat of the poison when applied to a cuticular surface, as to the glans, &c. which are often irritated to ulceration.

Chancres may be produced in three ways; first, by the matter applied to a wound; second, to a sore; third, to a new secreting surface. The first are but seldom in the way of poisons; the proportion of gonorrhoeas therefore to chancres is four or five of the former to one of the latter; it is wonderful that the cutis is affected so often as it is, being defended by the cuticle; it must depend upon the thinness of the latter, and the disease is more readily caught where it is thinnest. Every part of the body to which the poison can be applied may notwithstanding be affected so as to produce the disease, though it is most commonly caught in the parts of generation, for obvious reasons. The distance of time between the application and effect is uncertain. The frænum is easily, and therefore often affected. I knew it to affect in one instance in twenty hours after coition; and, on the other hand, so long as seven weeks in one instance, and two months in another; had these last been connected with women in the interval, the matter probably might be wiped off. A



A chancre begins with itching in the part; a small pimple full of matter then appears; if on the glans with little or no tumefaction, and less pain than if on the prepuce, the inflammation being more extensive in the last from the loose cellular membrane. The ulceration is sometimes preceded by excoriation; the itching at length changing to pain, and there is often a circumscribed hardness.

Chancres appear sometimes on the scrotum, generally in the fore part of it, and the pimples here are allowed to scab. There is a peculiar hardness, together with inflammation, surrounding the sores, when they continue and are suffered to go on without being attacked.

The urethra sometimes sympathises with chancres, having a tickling pain, and the testicles and scrotum also; even touching the hairs on the pubes, in some cases, will give considerable pain. If the inflammation spreads fast, and the pain is great, it shews considerable irritation; and that the constitution is not healthy. When slow are formed it shews a disposition to mortification, and when they separate hemorrhage is sometimes the consequence. - In slack cases we should have the use of bark and all kinds of strengtheners.

General



## General Reflections on the Tumefaction of the Prepuce, forming the Phymosis and Paraphymosis.

This arises from a thickening of the loose cellular membrane of the prepuce, and happens more especially in cases of chancres, though now and then in gonorrhoeas also. - With some there is a natural phymosis, not being the consequence of any disease, this preventing the urine, &c. from passing with ease.

## Oedematous Inflammation.

The inflammation attending the diseased paraphymosis is often very high, and of the erysipelatous kind, with great tumefaction, which depends upon the extravasation of serum, and it is this that constitutes Oedematous Inflammation.

## Of the Phymosis.

When the prepuce is in its natural state, it nearly covers the glans, but elongates considerably in disease, sometimes projecting two or three inches beyond it; very bad consequences arise when the prepuce cannot be drawn back at the time that sores are situated



ated beyond the glans; there is an accumulation of matter, abscess, ulceration, &c. and even mortification in some constitutions.

## Paraphymosis.

This is when the prepuce cannot be brought forward over the glans, and often succeeds to phimosis; the symptoms are more severe in the former, especially if the latter has preceded it, which is not unfrequently the case; for when the prepuce is swelled, as in the phimosis, and is suddenly drawn back, it often, again, cannot be returned, and then it constitutes paraphymosis. The stricture is sometimes so great, that mortification of the prepuce beyond it takes place: thus a man came into St. George's Hospital with a paraphymosis, and the whole of the glans soon sloughed off.

## Chancres in Women.

This complaint is less complicated in women, their parts being more simple; on the skin of the labia there are oftener numerous chancres than in men, and upon the nymphæ, &c. likewise there being a larger surface to spread over here; those without often form scabs from the drying of the matter, resembling those on the body of the penis and scrotum in men. — The matter sometimes passes down the perinaeum, producing chancres there about the anus.

General



## General Observations on the Treatment of Chancres.

They are generally attended with some peculiarity of the constitution at the time;—hence the treatment must vary both as to internal and external remedies; and it is the knowledge of this disease that constitutes the judicious Surgeon—for if those sores were to be wholly specific, there would be no difference in the cure. We should consider, therefore, in the first place, whether the cooling or strengthening plan is most advisable. A chancre may be treated in two ways, either by destroying it by extirpation, &c. or altering the venereal irritation by certain applications. The first mode is to be put in practice upon the first appearance of it, by which means we reduce it to the scale of a common wound; it may be done either by caustic or incision; when upon the glans the former is preferable—lunar caustic is best. The caustic should be pointed at the end like a pencil, that only the diseased part may be touched; this application may be continued till the sore is of a healthy appearance, when it will readily heal. I have sometimes dissected chancres out, and the wounds have healed like common ones; it will be proper, however to dress them with mercurial ointment; by such treatment, if early, we are almost secure from a pox; but as this is not absolutely certain, it will be prudent to administer mercury. When chancres are of a considerable size, it will not be proper to attempt extirpation. Of



## General Observations on the Cure of Chancres.

The cure does not consist in the destruction of the part, but in the destruction of the venereal disposition and action, and then the parts heal of course. Mercury is a specific in chancre, and will cure every one that is specifically so; it does this either externally applied, or given internally. - It is curious that although it has no power over the gonorrhoea, it should, notwithstanding, be a specific in chancre.

## Of the Dressings for Chancres.

Mercurial ointments are the common applications; but if the mercury was in a watery form, it would be better. The dressings should be occasionally changed, as any one dressing will soon lose its effect from the sore being habituated to its action. Some chancres take on an indolent disposition; hence the mercury should be applied along with some warm balsam in such, or the red precipitate may be necessary. Calomel with salve is more active than common mercurial ointment, and may sometimes be employed in preference; The applications are endless which will at different times suit chancres



chancres in different constitutions; - if irritability prevails, opium or lead should be joined to the mercury. Solution of blue vitriol, verdigrise, &c. have been recommended. The oftener the dressings are renewed the better.

### Treatment of the Phymosis.

The patient should keep his bed, that the end of the penis should not be depending so as to favor the accumulation of the extravasated juices there; but if he should not be able to keep his bed, then a proper bandage to support the penis against the belly will be necessary. Mercurial injections for the sores may be made with crude mercury, gum arabic, calomel and gum arabic, or corrosive sublimate; and these should be frequently repeated so as to keep the parts clean. Between each time of injecting, mercurial ointment should be applied. A poultice with equal parts of linseed and bread with veg. min. water, and a tea-spoonful of laudanum, will sometimes be proper; - let the steam of warm water, with vinegar and spirits of wine be directed on the penis likewise. When the parts bleed I know no complaint more troublesome; - to stop the bleeding, spirits of turpentine must be injected into the parts; when the inflammation abates, move the prepuce as much as possible, to prevent adhesions which will otherwise take place if the surface and prepuce of the glans opposite each other have been both ulcerated. The treatment by injections, &c. prevents this also; if such adhesions then are suffered to take place, it is a reflexion on the surgeon. The adhesions have sometimes



sometimes been so great as to leave no passage for the urine, in which case an operation is necessary.

## Internal Medicines.

It is necessary to give mercury both for the cure of a chancre and preventing of a pro; and no chancres scarcely can resist both the external and internal application of this remedy. Mercury ought to be given in all cases of chancres, and continued sometime after they heal. The quantity of mercury that is necessary is very uncertain; it should be in proportion to the size and number of chancres, together with the length of time they have continued. It should be thrown in either by the stomach or skin, as most convenient, and the mouth should be slightly affected. When the hard base becomes softened, and the sore skin over; it may be supposed to be cured; - it is better, however, to err on the safe side, by continuing the mercury some time after the chancre is cured. for although a large chancre may be deprived of its venereal disposition long before it heals, yet a small one may skin over before the venereal disposition is entirely destroyed. The mercury flying to the mouth, and producing sloughing of the tonsils, has, I suspect, been sometimes improperly taken for venereal. The following cases seem to justify this opinion: A man had been rubbing in mercury for the cure of a chancre, and dressing it with mercurial ointment, and while the chancre was mending



mending his throat sloughed. Another case, in which mercury was rubbed in for venereal eruptions; they went off, and during the use of the mercury the tonsils sloughed. These sloughings I consider as the effect of the mercury, not of the venereal disease.

### Operation for the Phymosis.

This is the slitting the prepuce nearly the whole length in the direction of the penis. Some have advised two slits, and then it is said not to be necessary to cut to so great an extent; those who recommend this method, have reasoned from the natural phymosis; but there is a considerable difference; for if the operation becomes necessary in the diseased state, it is necessary to slit up the whole length. In many cases to violent an operation would be improper, as it increases the inflammation and tendency to gangrene; but, on the contrary, in other cases, by a freedom, to the parts, mortification is prevented. When matter is collected and confined, an opening with a lancet, or small caustic, if the patient objects to the former, will be sufficient—thus giving an exit to the matter, and allowing applications of dressings to the parts diseased. Mortification is sometimes the consequence of chancres when attended with considerable inflammation; here I suspect there is a fault in the constitution, the inflammation being erysipilatus, &c. I have seen cases where the whole of the diseased part sloughed away in this manner, producing circumcision in the end. Bark should be given in such



such cases, and freely, and mercury may be joined with it, by this method attacking both diseases at the same time; but the mercury will sometimes increase the erysipelas; they therefore must be given alone.

## Paraphymosis.

The operation for this is more necessary in most cases than for the phymosis. From what ever cause it arises, if not removed, mortification will generally take place, followed by a sloughing from the stricture forwards; - this being circumcision in consequence of disease.

## Manner of performing the Operation.

A bistory is the most proper instrument, separate the swelled parts with your fingers, then pass the bistory in at the most strictured part, and bring it through.

## Circumcision.

After the danger of the phymosis and paraphymosis is over, a much longer quantity of the prepuce than before remains, at least it is considerably elongated, and if not relieved with the steam of warm water, use fumigations of cinnabar and hemlock fomentations; all that projects beyond the glands may be cut away; but in cutting great care should be taken



taken to distinguish between what is glans and what is prepuce; the parts may be allowed to heal by any common dressing. In the healing be cautious that the cicatrix does not contract so as to form a phymosis. The patient should manage and prevent this himself, by drawing it frequently back after a certain time.

### Cure of Chancres in Women.

They should be washed frequently with solutions of mercury, corrosive, sublimate, &c. and mercurial ointment applied afterwards. The quantity of mercury thrown into the constitution should be more considerable than in men; the chancres being generally more numerous. When the ulcers spread, it will be necessary to keep some extraneous body, as lint, &c. in the vagina, or the granulation, by contracting, may close the passage wholly or in part. There have been instances of the sides of the vagina uniting from this cause.

### Of the new diseased Disposition taking place during the Cure.

There is sometimes a diffused inflammation with a purple hue, ragged sore, &c. supposed generally to be cancerous, but many



many of them are only scrophulous; in some there is swelling and hardness, with an indolent disposition; in these cases, sarsaparilla, in large quantities, has frequently been serviceable. The German diet drink has sometimes afforded singular relief like wise; extract of hemlock, also, and sea-bathing, dressings with opium, and lastly, a bougie, if necessary, to prevent the passage being closed up. In the indolent, extirpation is frequently necessary.

## Effects of Chancres on the Parts.

It often happens that after chancres heal, and all the virus is gone, the cicatrices again ulcerate and break out; - such are treated as venereal, though they are not so; the cure is very uncertain; I have known them break out every second month; they are very liable to break out again, and not always in the same place. Sea-bathing is highly proper, having been very effectual in some cases of the kind. The disposition is the strongest where the chancres were. Chancres often heal into warts; but warts form in gonorrhoea also, from the matter remaining on the parts, and are therefore no sign of the pox; they have an increasing power within themselves, often bleed profusely when hurt, and are very painful. Mercury is employed for the cure, and it is asserted will remove them, but I have not found this to be the case. A disposition



disposition to decay, may be produced in them by surrounding inflammation; Stimulents, as electricity, blue vitriol, &c. these exciting an action they are not equal to; they may be removed with a pair of scissors, tied with thread, or touched with caustic; as a stimulent, rust of copper and powdered savine leaves make a very good composition. They often grow up again, so as to require a repetition of the former treatment. An excoriation of the glans and prepuce frequently occurs, and it is not in general to be considered venereal.

### Absorption of the Venereal Poison, or Method of producing the second Genus.

This arises from the matter being taken into the circulating fluids, which gradually irritating, the inner surface of the vessels produces a species of inflammation and suppuration peculiar to itself. It appears, however, to lose its power of being a poison when taken into the constitution, not producing matter of the same kind. The surfaces from which the absorption takes place, I shall divide into three, although the effect is similar in all. I shall begin with that which happens the most seldom, and is taken into the constitution without any local effect being produced. The second is from the gonorrhœa, and the third from an ulcer, which may be



be either a chancre or buboe. An ulcerated surface is a very good absorbing one, but better in some parts than in others. Thus although a person may be pixed from an ulcer on the glans penis, yet absorption does not take place there so readily as from an ulcer on the prepuce. A fourth method of catching the disease may be from a wound.

## Proportion.

Where one person gets it the first way, at least an hundred get it the second; and for every one that get it in the second way we have an hundred that get it in the third. In the first method of catching it, it is to be prevented by washing away the matter from the part. — During the cure of gonorrhoea and chancre, no mercury should be exhibited to obviate the effects of any of the matter which may be observed — otherwise these may be cured while the constitution is affected.

## Of the Disease of the Absorbents, called Buboes.

By a buboe is meant an abscess in the absorbing system in any part of the body, in consequence of a poison. I shall make two divisions of them; — first, where the absorbent vessels are contaminated; second, contamination of the glands. The first division is not very frequent, but when such happens it is in the form of a cord on the back of the penis leading to a gland. The thickening or formation of this hard



hard cord depends probably upon the thickening of the lymphatic vessels from C.L. &c. — Suppuration sometimes takes place in several parts of it, forming a chain of small abscesses all along the penis, similar to the abscess of veins.

## Of the second, more particularly called Buboes.

These arise from the venereal matter being contained in the lymphatic glands, the structure of which is that of lymphatic vessels so convoluted, &c. as to favor the stagnation of the matter; the glands nearest to the origin of the disease are those only which are attacked, viz. those that are in the groin; the second order of the glands, as those of the back, &c. not being affected. It now and then happens, however, that there is an exception to this rule. It would appear from hence that the matter was diluted in its passage onwards; but the most probable cause is, that the glands of the second order are not so readily irritated, because they are more deeply situated.

## Situation of Buboes in Men.

When the venereal matter is carried from the penis they are situated in the absorbent glands of the groin. When arising from gonorrhoea the buboe may be on either side, or there may be two, one upon each groin; but in case of chancre it happens most frequently that the  
gland



gland is affected on the side where the chancre is; in case, however, the chancre should be on the frænum or middle of the penis, then the buboe may be on either side, or both sides may be affected. The situation of the lymphatic glands is not always the same; therefore instead of the groin we sometimes have the buboe above the pœupart ligament near the pubes, &c. but the nearest the surface of absorption that always is which is affected.

### *Situation of Buboes in Women.*

One would naturally suppose that what has been said of this complaint in men, would be wholly applicable to women; and that nothing peculiar could take place in them. But the surface of absorption in women being greater, there are three different parts in which buboes are situated, two of them different from those in men. When the chancre is on the labia minora, &c. then the venereal matter will be carried along the round ligament, and the seat of the buboe will be there, just before it enters the abdominal reign, and no farther; this I suspect not to be glandular, but of the absorbent vessels only; and if, as it strengthens the opinion very much, that a buboe can only be external, when the chancre is more backward, then the buboe will be situated between the labia and the groin, or in the groin itself sometimes. The third is similar to that in men, viz. the groin.

*Inflammation*



## Inflammation of Buboes.

The first circumstance that denotes a bubo is most commonly a sense of pain; the patient then feels a small hard tumour, which sometimes advances quickly, and the matter often comes to the surface in a short time. — Some, however, are very indolent, in scrophulous constitutions particularly; others again are erysipelatous, becoming oedematous, &c.

### Of the Pain.

As they are generally of the true suppurative kind, the pain is very considerable; but when they are indolent and scrophulous, the pain is but slight.

### Of the Uncertainty in some Cases of those Swellings of the Glands in the Groin being Venereal or scrophulous.

It is difficult sometimes to distinguish; and it is certain that patients have often undergone a course of mercury and even salivation, when there was no occasion for it. In such buboes as arise without any visible cause, and suppurate quickly, mercury should certainly be employed; but when they are attended with a cold feverish affection, and are indolent, then it is probable they are not venereal — it cannot be determined with certainty. I suspect that we often



often meet with cases of the mixed kind, as the case of Lord Ilprover. In some cases, if we are even certain of their being venereal, we cannot well employ mercury, the constitution not being able to bear the action of the remedy, as in those who labour under scrophula, hectic; these are the cases which when treated with much mercury, become what is called cancerous.

### The Locality of the Disease.

These affections, viz. buboes, both in men and women, are entirely local, having no more connection with the constitution than those from whence they arise; some, notwithstanding, have been absurd enough to consider it in the light of a critic deposit; but why, if this was the case, should the absorbent glands be affected, or why should not the glands in the neck or in other parts be affected as rarely as those of the groin, or those nearest the source of absorption? And, lastly, if they were critical, why should it be necessary, which we know it is, to administer mercury?

Mode of Cure arising from the foregoing Theory, together with general Observations on the Resolutions of Venereal Buboes prior to the Plan of Cure.

The true venereal buboe is to be distinguished, if possible, from the others. The resolution of a



of a venereal buboe is best effected by mercury, so that this remedy is necessary as well before as after the suppuration takes place. The local powers of mercury are greatly increased by the manner of applying it, viz. as near the absorption as possible, in such a way as that the mercury shall pass through the gland along with the matter, following it by the heels, as it were, into the constitution. Mercury can only cure the specific disposition of the inflammation, and will not therefore always answer, for there is sometimes a great deal of the common inflammation, at other times of erysipilatous, and some again are scrophulous. The proper method of treating the first of these is by bleeding and purging; the second by bark, and the third by cicuta and sea-water. Poultices and vomits have been known to cure, even when suppuration has taken place; they appear to act upon the principle of revulsion, or that of one irritation destroying another; vomiting gives also a disposition for absorption. Case of a gentleman who went to sea with a buboe, in a state of suppuration, and the sea-sickness occasioned an absorption of the matter.

### Resolution of the Inflammation of the Absorption on the Penis.

Mercurial ointment should be constantly applied over the part, and rubbed in also on a larger surface.

Of



## Of the Quantity of Mercury for the Resolution of a Bubo.

The mercury, in some cases, where the resolution is obstinate, must be pushed as far as the mouth will bear without exciting a salivation. Begin with rubbing in half a drachm every night, and proceed accordingly as the bubo is affected by it. They should be prevented from suppurating, if possible; and nothing is so effectual in answering this intention as the plan of mercurial ointment here recommended; for of all those which I had under my care from the beginning, I never had more than three that suppurated since I adopted this method, and it is now sixteen years since I have been treating them in this manner.

## Treatment of Buboes when they suppurate.

They will now and then suppurate, notwithstanding the most proper treatment has been adopted. The skin should be thin before the opening is made, that it may heal from the bottom, and the opening small. I would continue mercury through the whole of the suppuration, although perhaps in a more moderate degree than before. The opening is to be made either with the knife or the caustic, according to the inclination of the patient, &c. as in other cases; but when left to the surgeon's choice, an opening with a lancet is preferable;



ferable, for by this method the skin is saved; when, however, the skin happens to be loose, the caustic may deserve the preference, and the best caustic is the lapis scept. The wound is afterwards to be dressed according to the nature of the disease, and we should at the same time attack the constitution with mercury. The course should be continued till the buboe heals or loses its venereal appearance, but as this point can only be determined by long experience, mercury had best be continued in general till it entirely heals. Buboes, however, sometimes take on certain dispositions which mercury increases.

### Buboes in Women.

The same treatment applies as in men.

### Of a new Disposition taking place either in Men or Women.

Mercury not only fails in curing many of them, but if persisted in occasions considerable mischief; scrophula may be concerned in these dispositions; they make the cure of the venereal much more uncertain; the predominant disease is to be attacked, but it is often difficult to determine which it is. Case of a gentleman with a buboe which was opened; he used mercury two months, and it still continued bad; considering his habit as too much of a mercurial one, I ordered him a milk diet, &c. some time, then directed mercury as fresh, and continued its use for two months, when



when the ulcer became stationary; omitted the mercury entirely, at which time I directed, sarsaparilla, milk, and cicuta, opened the sinus and sent him to the sea. He continued this plan four months, notwithstanding which the sore remained bad; tried mercury again, but it would not answer; resolved at length, therefore, to leave off all medicine, and by carrying this plan into execution he recovered perfectly. The conclusion to be drawn from this is plainly, in my opinion, that a buboe may not heal, although the venereal disposition is destroyed, and that bark, cicuta, sarsaparilla, &c. will fail in many of these cases, the disposition at length wearing itself out without medicine. — Col. W.'s case: He had a gonorrhoea succeeded by buboes, which suppurated; they were opened, and for a time healed kindly, but at length became stationary; I suspected that a new disease was forming, and therefore ordered sarsaparilla, sea-bathing, &c. When the new disposition, which was scrophulous, abated then the venereal one increased, so that it was necessary to return again to the use of mercury.

### Of the Cure of these in general.

I have found hemlock, used both internally and externally, joined with the bark, the most effectual remedies; sarsaparilla, sea-bathing, and poultices of sea-water, which is an application in use at the Lock Hospital, often does service. Sir Wm. Fordyce particularly recommends lemon juice and oranges, and I have prescribed them with advantage.



advantage. Such cases may perhaps be connected with scorbutic constitutions.

## The Second Genus.

### General Observations.

A great variety of appearances are produced when the virus is taken into the constitution, and this depends chiefly upon four circumstances; — first, the time it has been in the constitution; second, the particular constitution; third, the different solids affected; fourth, the different dispositions the solids are in at the time.

The appearance of the second genus being sooner or later from the time of infection depends upon a difference of constitution; at a medium it is almost six weeks, in others sooner, and again much later. Case in which the whole body was almost covered with venereal eruptions, in a fortnight after appearance of chancre. The deep-seated parts taking on the venereal disposition later than the external, viz. the skin, &c. is not always the case, as I have seen the periosteum, &c. affected. Although external parts are cured, yet the deep-seated parts shall sometimes still take on the action after a time, which has made some imagine that the virus was locked up in the solids, or circulated in the blood several years; but there are no certain signs of these circumstances. There was a case in St. James's workhouse under Mr. Farquhar's care, which would seem to favor



favor the opinion of its lurking in the solids. A girl had a venereal eruption on her skin, and a sore throat; she was salivated, and it notwithstanding broke afterwards; she had then a swelling on the arm near the biceps-muscle, which suppurated but did not break; the swelling disappeared and so on for two or three times, when it was opened, and she was at length cured. This case, however, affords no certain conclusion. The other idea of its circulating a length of time in the blood I can form no notion of.

### Of its Appearance.

The first appearance after absorption is generally upon the skin, throat, or mouth; the appearance in the throat often precedes the others; in some the eruptions appear in different blotches, not very observable till scurfs are forming; at other times they appear small and distinct, with inflammation, and the small pimples are sometimes filled with matter. In some, again, a copper coloured dry inelastic scurf or cuticle appears, which is thrown off from time to time, these at times to the size of sixpence each, and sometimes form ulcers. Where skin is opposed to skin, as in the arm-pits, &c. the above described appearance never takes place, but the surface of the eruption rises white, smooth, &c. and a whitish kind of matter succeeds; - they are attended too with more pain than the former. Whether this appearance only attends the disease in question, I know not. The hair falls off from the parts that



that are attacked with it, and so long as the disease continues the young hair cannot form. The fingers are sometimes the seat of it, and when this is the case the nails generally fall off.

### The second Situation or Appearance,

Is most commonly upon the throat, inside of the mouth and tongue, although it sometimes attacks other parts. An ulcer that is very rapid in its progress, but without much tumefaction, is formed in these cases; the ulceration continues to go on fast, and the ulcer becomes foul with thickened or bordered edges; this last, however, is peculiar to all sores which have no disposition to heal; these venereal ulcers are painful, though not so much so as the inflammation of the tonsils, which obliges them to speak thick and to snuffle. The matter which is discharged from the ulcerated surface cannot remain on to dry into a scab, but is washed off in swallowing, &c. The eyes sometimes become the seat of affection, i.e. venereal-opthalmia being produced, which it is difficult on some occasions to distinguish from common opthalmia.

### Symptoms of the second Stage of this Genus.

When the disease has been affecting the constitution for some time, for it may do this without having appeared on the external parts, then the parts farthest from these begin to be affected, or the



The effects sometimes happen when it has first appeared on the external parts, and has been cured there. The parts alluded to are tendons, ligaments, periosteum, &c. A total deafness is not very uncommon at this time, attended now and then with pain and suppuration of the ear. A node often appears several months after the period of any possible infection; the progress of this is gradual, and in case of suppuration a kind of slimy matter is produced instead of good pus. When the periosteum, bones, &c. become affected, then the pain is very considerable, though not always. Nodes will sometimes continue several years before they come to suppuration at all, the inflammation being so very slow.

Venereal pains are periodical, being particularly severe at night, resembling the rheumatism in this respect.

## Effects on the Constitution.

These are similar to all irritations, either local or constitutional: a fever of the slow kind is produced, with a disposition to hectic. When long continued the patient loses his appetite, his countenance is sallow, and he wastes away, &c.

## Cure of the second Genus.

When this is recent it exhibits less variety than either of the species of the first genus, but although a more simple treatment is sufficient, yet the cure is uncertain. When gonorrhoea abates,



abates, the patient may be tolerably certain that he is well; whereas a part with pocky sores may be cured and yet other parts may be affected afterwards; the sores being local may be locally cured; and the constitution still remain affected, parts which are less susceptible coming into action afterwards—The parts that are most susceptible of a cure, and vice versa! To produce an uniform cure we should attack the blood, not as the diseased part, but as the vehicle for the medicine which will carry it to every part of the body that is diseased by the poison; this should be continued a considerable time after the disease has disappeared, otherwise a return may be expected.

### Mercury the Specific.

Mercury is a specific in this as well as chancres, and hardly any thing else is to be depended upon; it is therefore that we should consider well the application of this remedy. It admits of application two ways, either Internally, or externally, but the absorbents will not always take it up in the last way, at least no sensible effect is produced in some cases. It also happens that on some occasions the absorbents will not take it up when administered internally, at least no effect is produced as in the other instances. In such cases all the different preparations should be tried, as one will sometimes produce the desired effect when the others will not. I never saw a case that the absorbents would not take it up in one way or the other. If such a case was to



to occur, it would be truly a pitiable one. — One surface is better than another for absorption: Thus some have been salivated from dressing a sore only with red precipitate.

It is better to throw it in by the skin than by any other part, this being less essential to life than the more internal parts. Indeed many people would be destroyed if they were to take by the stomach the quantity of mercury which it is necessary to introduce into the constitution; when given internally, it sh<sup>d</sup> be joined with such medicine as corrects its disagreeable effects, at the same time that its specific effects are not lessened.

### Quantity of Mercury necessary.

This must be in proportion to the violence of the disease. It is a much more manageable and safe medicine than it was formerly supposed to be. A degree of caution is necessary that it does not stimulate some particular parts too much, otherwise it will not produce the desired effect. The quantity and the effects on the mouth, &c. should go hand in hand. An ounce of the ointment rubbed in two days will produce a greater effect than two ounces in ten days; for the suddenness of the mercurial action has a greater effect on the venereal action than when it is very gradually introduced, though the effects are less violent in the latter case.

Visible



## Visible Effects of Mercury.

There are gradually an increase in the secretions, and they are in the following order: first, the secretions from the salivary glands, which first become enlarged and swell; second, the secretions of the intestines; third, of the skin; fourth, of the kidneys. These different secretions are affected singly or wholly, or any two of them, but the mouth is most commonly affected; not all the parts of it are equally so, the gums sometimes are only sore, at other times the fauces are chiefly affected, and these become ulcerated.

## Of its producing Evacuations.

This effect, when produced, is certainly only a retardment to the cure, than otherwise, although it was formerly supposed that it was a specific evacuation, the mercury mixing with the virus, and in this way discharging it. Some have gone too far on the opposite side of the question, supposing that it acted by some hidden power without any evacuation or sensible effect being necessary.

## Action of Mercury considered.

It can have but two modes of action, one upon



upon the constitution and the other upon the poison. If upon the poison singly, it must be in one of these ways;—lessening it by decomposition, or mixing with it and carrying it out of the constitution. If it was the first, then the quantity alone would be the cure; if the last, then according to the quantity of evacuation, but we do not find it so. The quantity and effect are according to the time given, joined with the susceptibility of the body, for the reception of mercury. It should be given until it produces local effects somewhere, but not too quickly, and these should be checked when excited, as the cure will depend upon the quantity of mercury that gets into the constitution, together with the degree of susceptibility in the constitution for the mercurial irritation. The local effects are a proof of its effects on the constitution at large, and are therefore in a certain degree discernable. Case of a gentleman who had a caustic applied to a chancre, which was dressed afterwards with mercurial ointment. — He rubbed in two ounces of mercurial ointment also, which soon affected his mouth; he continued to spit one month, during which time the chancre healed. About two months after this his throat became affected with the disease. This failure, then in the cure I conceive to be attributed to the too great susceptibility of the salivary glands, which allowed the mercury to run off too fast by them; on the other hand we cannot produce any effect upon the glands. In such cases it generally produces effects on the parts. If the disease is mild a small quantity will be sufficient; but even here I would follow it up pretty closely, as the



the disease will be sooner conquered. But if the disease is in its first appearance, the quantity may be less and the treatment more mild.

### Methods of giving Mercury, and the Quantity necessary in the recent Stage of the Disease.

In the first place we should endeavor to know the constitution of the patient by enquiring what effects were produced on former occasions by the same. And this is no vague enquiry, as many persons have occasion to employ it more than once in their life time. I remember an instance in which a person was easily affected by a small quantity of mercury, although on a former occasion a much larger quantity was necessary; but this is to be considered as a rare occurrence. If you cannot inform yourself with respect to the constitution of the patient, then it is best to begin with a small quantity.

### External Application.

The form of an ointment is best; the mercury being kept divided, and applied close to the surface, besides the oil may admit of an easy absorption, and in this way carry the mercury along with it. If your patient has not been accustomed to mercury, a scruple or two may be rubbed in at night for five or six nights, when, if the mouth is not affected, increase it to a  
drachm;



drachm; in case the mouth becoming affected, we should stop till this abates. This course continued for two weeks more will generally cure a recent pox. When salivation has been produced, then the local application of the mercury in spitting it up may cure sores in the throat, while the poison still remains in the constitution. The course should be continued a fortnight in general after the symptoms disappear.

### Manner of living under such a course.

The common and usual method of living need scarcely be altered. Should the patient live in the fields, eat like an epicure, and get drunk every night, I cannot understand how this should hinder the cure. It is true, indeed, that cold will increase the venereal disposition, the patient therefore would be right to keep as warm as he can.

### Internal Exhibition of Mercury.

Some cannot conveniently employ the violent, although it is in general the most effectual method. When given internally, the most simple preparation should be first employed; if the stomach is disagreeably affected by it, join essential oils with it, as those of camomile, cloves, &c. If both the stomach and the intestines are affected, the effects may be prevented two ways; first, by preventing the formation of a salt, either by joining alkalines or absorbent earths, as soap, crab's eyes, merc: alkalizat, &c. or secondly by preventing the effects of the salt on the intestines.



intestines when formed, by diminishing the irritability by means of opium. We may set it down as a fact, then, that alkalines, opium and essential oils will correct the disagreeable effects of mercury. Calcin'd mercury, with opium, is in general the best and most efficacious form; one grain of the former every night; if calomel is employed a larger quantity is necessary. Fifteen grains of crude mercury rubbed down with gum arabic, is equal in its effects to only one grain of calcin'd mercury. Corrosive sublimate heals ulcers in the mouth and throat more readily than any other preparation of mercury, which may depend partly on its local application to them in its passage to the stomach, (being saline); but sublimate cannot be depended upon for curing the constitution, for the disease will be found often to return if this only is employed; which may be explained, perhaps, on the principle of its going off by the skin so readily; besides this preparation of mercury is very disagreeable in general to the stomach and intestines. A cure is generally completed in about two months; but this must by no means guide you, for after all symptoms have vanished, we should use mercury a fortnight; and whenever the symptoms go off quickly, we should continue its use three weeks after their disappearance. Various preparations of mercury have been recommended, some favoring one, others another, each person thinking his the best, and having an unfavorable opinion of some other preparation because he once met with a case in which it disagreed, he has therefore rejected it.



it ever since. The truth is, that one preparation will sometimes agree with a patient when another will not; - The preparations must therefore be varied according to circumstances.

## Way of Life.

Vegetables are generally prohibited on account of their producing acidity; the union of the absorbent earth will remedy this effect, ~ but it is best to avoid them, especially if upon trial disagreeable effects, as griping, &c. are produced.

## Cure of the second Genus when in its second, third, or fourth Stage.

When the periosteum, facia bones, &c. are affected, then the greater quantity of mercury ~ that can be thrown in the better, as large a quantity as the patient can bear. If the patient is easily affected with mercury, we must proceed with caution; the sooner a large quantity is thrown in the better, but we must be careful to regulate so that much salivation shall not be produced; if in four or five days after rubbing in, the patient is affected, and in eight days his mouth becomes a little sore, it is a good beginning. By the skin we are more sure of throwing in a much larger quantity in a given time than by the stomach;



Stomach. The constitution should be surprised, as it were, by mercury. — In these cases it is necessary to continue the course till the node entirely subsides, as at that rate we should go on half a year or more.

## Way of Life.

Under such a severe course this should be particularly attended to, for it is in every respect a weakening one; the patient must be supported; the medicine itself producing a weakness of the habit, and the local effects of it in the mouth preventing the taking of solid food, milk should be taken, together with eggs beat up with sugar and wine, sage, salip, bark, &c. &c.

## Local Treatment.

In many of these cases the local effects, viz. inflammation, tumefaction, nodes, &c. require local treatment, and this must be according to the complaints themselves, and the nature of the parts, while the mercury is altering the constitution. Tumefaction, thickening, &c. will often continue after the constitution is cured of the lues venerea. — Nodes require mercurial ointment to be rubbed over them, or a mercurial plaister, or the inflammation may sometimes be altered by cutting down to them throughout their whole length. Blisters are useful in some cases, all



all these having a tendency to abate the violence of the pain. Many cases must be left to time after a proper course of mercury has been tried; but when time fails, something further which will be mentioned hereafter, must be tried.

## Of Abscesses.

When nodes are complicated with abscesses, the opening them with great freedom is necessary, this violence assisting in destroying the venereal disposition; the matter of such, however, is absorbed during the mercurial course.

## Of Exfoliation.

If the bone is affected, exfoliation will in general take place readily, and this is to be treated as a common exfoliation.

## Nodes of Tendons, &c.

The observations made on the nodes of bones are applicable here. Swellings often remain when the constitution is cured of the disease, and are very obstinate. To such blisters must be applied, and if these fail it is necessary to cut down to them.

## Of lessening the Effects of Mercury.

Formerly, when the management of mercury was



was not so well understood, together with its effects upon the disease, as at present, the evacuations mentioned were procured, and often with considerable inconvenience. Let it be managed ever so carefully, salivation will now and then be produced. When it has a disposition to pass off its progress should be stopped in every outlet, for there is no danger in putting a stop to secretions, though produced by the constitution. Most complaints of the mouth are attributed by some to a scorbutic habit. Purging is generally employed with a view of lessening the effects of mercury on the mouth, but I cannot say that I ever saw it answer. Sulphur has been given with the same view, and certainly been of service in many cases. If purging is really useful, purging with sulphur will be preferable to any other method. Sulphur enters the blood as sulphur, which we know by the smell of the sweat, &c. It may perhaps form Ethiop's mineral with the mercury in the blood, or it may act as an antimercurial stimulus. We should distinguish between a mercurial salivation and one which at length becomes habitual. When the mouth and throat are sore from salivation, a wash or gargle of opium, is very serviceable; an ounce of water with  $\text{Zi}$   $\text{℥ss}$  Thebaic. When the mercury runs off by the skin, bark should be administered. When the kidneys are affected bark may be given with advantage; but this particular affection seldom proves troublesome. When the bowels are attacked it is most dangerous and troublesome, but opium almost invariably, quiets them, and obviates the disagreeable effects.

Of



## Of Guaiacum.

This appears, from the trials I have made, to have a slight specific action on the disease, and may therefore assist mercury in cases where the exhibition of the necessary quantity of mercury would produce inconvenient effects. I have given sarsaparilla a trial also, but found it quite insufficient. I tried the comparative efficacy of these two articles in the same case. A man with venereal sores in his armpits, and on the scrotum and anus, was a fit subject for the experiment. To such a one, two poultices, one of guaiacum and one of sarsaparilla were applied, one to one axilla and the other to the other. The sores of that to which the guaiacum was applied soon healed, while the other got worse than before. I then gave half a drachm of guaiacum, three times a day, which, as it purged, was joined with opium, and in three or four weeks all the eruptions were cured, but after some little time (about a fortnight) they appeared again, when the guaiacum was again tried, but had lost its effects, so that it was necessary to administer mercury for the cure.

## State of Mercury in the Constitution.

It must be in a state of solution in our juices in order to act; it may be proper, therefore to prefer that preparation which is most easily soluble. Calcin'd mercury being very easy soluble, produces purging, which crude mercury will not do so readily. Every preparation of mercury producing salivation,



tion, and the same effects in general prove that they must all undergo the same change.

### Experiments on Myself.

I put crude mercury into my mouth and tasted it, but it was sometime before it produced the effect, while the calomel and merc: calc: produced the same taste in a much shorter time. I rubbed in mercury into my thigh till my mouth was sore. When I got well I made it sore with merc: calc: and afterwards with calomel, and after that with merc: corros: and the taste was the same in all as far as I can remember.

### Operations of Mercury on the Virus.

Three different modes of action may be supposed; first, that it may unite chemically with the poison, and thereby alter the properties—some have supposed that it acted by its weight, which is very absurd—second, that it may carry it out of the constitution by evacuation after uniting with it;—this, however, is not the case:—third, by producing an irritation contrary to the venereal irritation. This last appears to me most probable, for mercury acts as a general irritation, producing irritability of the constitution, making the pulse harder, &c.

As a proof of the irritability produced by mercury, a gentleman that had been under a course of it was easily affected by electric shocks which before had no effect upon him; the electricity  
now,



now also produced the desired effect, effecting a cure of the complaint for which it had been employed. The surgeon took the hint, and in another case where he wished to employ electricity, with a similar view, he first put the patient under a gentle mercurial course, and it had the desired effect.

### Of the Effects remaining after, and Diseases produced by the Cure.

It often happens that venereal abscesses will heal on account of a new disposition having taken place; a disposition different from the natural, different from the venereal, and different from the mercurial, is produced; a fourth, in fact made up of the other three. — Mercury becomes a poison to this new disposition, and should therefore be left off as soon as it is known. We are often puzzled with ulcers, they are sometimes improperly considered as chancres; they seem to arise from a real weakness being produced in the constitution; languor, loss of appetite, sweats and tendency to hectic generally attend them. Strengtheners should be employed, as bark, steel, &c. but I suspect that many of these are scrophulous, for sea bathing will sometimes affect a cure. I sent a patient to the sea side, and directed him to bathe during the course, and by this method he got well.

### Of Sarsaparilla.

In many of these cases it appears to be a specific; it is of no service, however, till the venereal irritation is destroyed.

A Pre-



## A Preventative against the Disease.

The most effectual method is keeping out of the way of it; but this requiring a greater degree of revolution than we are generally possessed of, is almost out of the question; applications with this view are either previous or immediate. Oils are serviceable, if a little tenacious so much the better Caustic Alkal. also, this uniting with the matter and forming a soap. The Alkal. should be well diluted; indeed lime water answers the purpose sufficiently well. - Goulard has a power of coagulating the animal juices, but may be done without the virus being destroyed. Corrosive sublimate in water is a good preventative.





OF

# THE ITCH.



It is the most simple of the morbid poisons; it is local and infectious, or communicable from one person to another. We have no proof of any absorption here, as in the case of cancer. The first appearance is that of a transparent vesicle; at length the matter forms and ulcerations take place. The powers of contamination are not strong, since cleanliness prevents its effects. It is never attended with pain, and does not extend beyond the surface. The itching is most troublesome when sitting by the fire, and when warm in bed. It is communicated by simple contact, as in shaking hands, which practice is very common amongst the lower order of the people; their inattention to cleanliness renders them more liable to this disease. The frequent washing of the hands prevents its taking place, as is proved by the physicians of hospitals, who are frequently obliged to handle patients with it. Sympathy has not the power of communicating the disease, it must be contact. The lying in a strange bed is commonly the cause of a general infection, also of nurses giving it



it to children. It has been said that the itch arises from animalcula;—now although I do not deny that they have been found at times in the eruptions, yet I do affirm that their presence is not necessary to constitute the disease.

### Of the Cure.

Although it is a specific disease, it may be cured by several different remedies, as mercury, hellebore, &c. Sulphur ointment, though disagreeable, is the most effectual remedy for it. Sulphur may be given internally also, and if it purges it may be joined with opium. A girdle of mercurial ointment will likewise cure it.





ON

## DRESSING FRESH WOUNDS.



In such wounds as intend to come to suppuration, the treatment is very simple. Whatever difference is pursued in the method of treatment, depends upon the part wounded. In some wounds the vessels that bleed are so small as only to be stopped by the method of dressing. Some wounds open into cavities; some wounds will require to be kept open, others to be healed as fast as possible. All these then may vary the mode of dressing. One mode, however, is to be applied in all. Dry lint has been used for a long time in this country; it was first employed, probably, from its being capable of stopping hemorrhage. Wounds that are to suppurate must first go through the adhesive and suppurative inflammation; the applications to such are poultices and fomentations—these applied before and after suppuration has taken place—so that there would appear to be a certain state common to both if serviceable to both. The use of a poultice, either before or after suppuration, is the keeping the part soft and moist; so far the common practice is consistent; but when applied to



to parts which are intended to suppurate it would appear to be inconsistent; they are useful, however, here too, not inviting suppuration, rather retarding it. Suppuration is invited by warm stimulating plaisters. Lint is improper in such wounds as are to inflame, therefore the worst dressing possible for fresh wounds; the only application proper is a poultice to keep the part soft and moist, and is easily removed. But a poultice cannot always be applied, the necessary bulk being inconvenient. When poultices cannot be used lint should be dipped in oil, and applied several days, until suppuration has taken place; by this method the lint is easily removed, not becoming hard with blood, &c.

### Of the Mode of bandaging Wounds that are to suppurate.

It is a common practice to use bandages in order to make the most of the skin, in cases of wounds, excision of tumours, &c. but this, though proper sometimes, should not be attempted when much inflammation is expected; but when that is not the case, even stitches may be applied with proper bandage, to retain the parts in contact.

### Of Poultices.

They are generally made too thin, and stale bread and milk make too brittle a composition. The poultice which answers best is made by pouring



pouring boiling water on linseed meal, and adding a little oil; this retains its form, &c.

## Of Sound Abscesses,

With their Treatment, their Variation arising from Situation, Structure, &c.

I have already laid down the immediate and general principle of suppuration. Abscesses are generally a consequence of inflammation, but not always so. They are one of the greatest objects of surgery, from their various, the causes inducing them, &c.

I shall lay down such surgical rules here as include them all, simply considered as abscesses.

Abscesses are of different depths, as from the pimple to the boil, and from that to the psoas abscess, or any other deep-seated one.

Abscesses are often found in the parts they formed in, and these are generally the superficial ones; but such as are deeply seated are found in different parts from those in which they were formed. It is difficult to class abscesses; I shall, however, divide them into two kinds, the sound and unsound, and each of them again into three kinds. The first appearance on the arm after inoculation leads us to form a judgment of the disease, &c.

## Sound Abscesses.

It is almost needless to treat of these, as our first principle applies; indeed little or nothing is



is to be done in them. By a sound abscess I mean a sound constitution; in such there is a ready disposition in the parts to heal, not being connected with any specific disease, for which we have no remedy. A healthy abscess is attended with considerable pain, suppuration and ulceration go on fast, the skin is of a florid colour, giving way, the abscess bursts soon. Poultices have been recommended in such cases, and are useful in keeping the skin soft, and affording warmth and moisture, which act as sedatives to our sensations.

After a poultice is applied very little more is necessary, as the abscess will very soon burst; some, however, require surgical treatment, as the opening them, the extraction of exfoliated bones, &c. Sound abscesses should be treated as unsound ones. Some are disposed to irritability and others to indolence; hence it would be unlucky if we were to apply stimulents to the former. The freedom of opening sound abscesses at first, is the first principle towards a cure. But most abscesses owe their size more or less to distension; attention is necessary to this circumstance, as the freedom of opening should be proportioned to the distension. In soft parts the distension is greatest, and here a freedom of opening is not always necessary.

The Time when Abscesses should be opened.

A disposition between healing the mouth and bottom of a wound constitutes fistula. Most abscesses should be allowed to burst,  
i.e.



i.e. when the retention of the matter can do no harm. Abscesses of the abdomen, thorax, brain, eye, and joints, had best be opened early, for if suffered to remain long considerable mischief is the consequence. An abscess of tunica vaginalis should be suffered to burst of itself. When abscesses are to be opened, it should be done in general at the most depending part;—when this is not in our power, then it must be done at the pointing part.

### Of the Method of opening them.

All abscesses will open of themselves, except where the matter is reabsorbed, and I have observed in general they ought to be allowed to open of themselves, unless some particular circumstance calls for their early opening. In large abscesses it will be generally necessary to make an opening by art, for the natural one is insufficient. The methods recommended for the removal of a part of the skin, are the incision and caustic; the preference should depend upon the feelings of the patient; if averse to cutting, then the caustic should be employed, and lapis infernalis or septic is the best. If left to my choice I prefer the incision, as being more quickly and readily done.

### Of the Treatment.

The first dressing, when opened with a cutting instrument, should be such as to prevent



prevent union by the first intention; this is best effected by the proper application of lint dipped in salve or oil; after the application of caustic dry lint is best, the part being in a suppurating state.

## Of the dressing of Sores which have a Disposition to heal.

This is a circumstance of great consequence, all other treatment being secondary. The dressing above I shall divide into two heads. First, where we intend to do nothing; Second, where we have some particular purpose to answer. The first may be divided into those where we have nothing specific to deal with; second where we have; basilicon is a very bad application to the skin, wax and oil being preferable. It is proper now and then to touch granulations with blue vitriol and mechanical means. Bandages are the mechanical means, and often give considerable assistance, especially in lower extremities.

## Retardment of the Cure of Sound Abscesses from Situations.

I shall more fully treat of fistula hereafter, but will just observe, now, that it is necessary to make free openings in such cases; this, however, should not be done unless the bottom of the wound is likely to heal as soon as the top,



top, which will not happen in the case of exfoliation; the opening such therefore will be attended but with very little effect.

### Retardment of the Cure of Sore Abscesses, from the Nature of the Parts.

This arises from a want of power, and it is dangerous to rouse them to action; mildness, even sedatives, as opium, &c. are frequently to be had recourse to in preference.

### General Observations on the Retardment of the Cure of Sores.

The situation of the body and way of life are great impediments; as sores situated on the legs, the person walking about at the same time, and being intemperate likewise: this also occasions sores to break out again after they had healed; there are, however other causes. A horizontal position, with temperance, should be the first thing advised in case of sore legs. The indolence, irritability, or specific nature are to be discovered frequently by experiment. In case of irritability, sedatives with bark are to be employed; in the indolent, stimulents; if neither of these answer, then the means are to be varied. When a backwardness to heal in sores occurs, a thickening of the surrounding parts generally takes place. The remote causes, as scrophula, lues venerea, &c. will



will be considered elsewhere, and the best method of treating them explained.

## Of the Abscesses in a Part.

There are a considerable difference between the abscess of a part, and the abscess in part. Lumbar abscesses, i.e. matter formed in the loins frequently appears in the fore part of the thigh, lower part of the belly, between the glutal muscles, &c. — this therefore is to be considered an abscess in a part, the seat of disease being at a distance,

## Treatment of Abscesses in a Part.

Little can be done in such; they should only be opened slightly, or in many cases not at all, for the opening brings on the hectic, &c. sooner when opened either by nature or art. If they are indolent and not disposed to heal, alkaline injections and injections of decoctions of bark, Tr. Myrrh, &c. will be proper.

## Of unsound Sores made to skin, how to be treated afterwards.

In these there is often no disposition for a good cuticle, so that ulceration again takes place. The great object is to keep the part moist. The treatment should consist in



in making use of the same remedy which first produced the healing -- if tar water agreed, tar water, &c. -- and scraping off from time to time the diseased cuticle, not injuring, however, the one that formed last.

## Of Specific Disease, and the Irritable.

I come now to treat of dispositions and actions which are not preparatory to any good end; in short, I come to treat of real disease. Whenever the natural dispositions are disturbed, something of a specific kind appears to be superadded. Specific diseases may be divided into two classes; first, those that have some specific quality simply; second, all the poisons. The first may be subdivided into the regular and irregular.

## Of unsound Dispositions, or what should be considered Disease.

These are the opposite to salutary dispositions for restoration. I shall divide them into those with too great powers, and those with too little, or perhaps into indolent and irritable.

## Of the Irritable.

Irritability and indolence hardly deserve to be called specific, as they are qualities which may occur in all mortal diseases. The irritable disposition is that which



which cannot sit easy under any misfortune, either in the whole or in a part, and is loth to set about salutary dispositions. It generally belongs both to the nerves and living principles, sensibility and irritability most frequently accompanying each other. Irritability is of various kinds, but may for the most part be called passive, or at least not coming into action till first acted upon. An irritable disposition is often constitutional rather than local, though not always, parts sometimes taking on an irritability from disease, without the constitution being so altered.

### Of the Irritable Inflammations.

They are either from a disposition of a part, or from an accident inflicted upon an irritable habit. The irritable disposition often becomes a retardment to healing. Irritable inflammation may be local, and yet arise from the constitution, as a woman with irregular menses, in whom the constitution would become irritable if not centered in a part which takes on an irritable inflammation.

### Of the Cure or Resolution.

The necessary treatment is very difficult, more so than in the indolent, for it is easier in general to excite than assuage. Resolution is to be produced, if possible, by bread and milk poultices, or poultices of bread and water; opium may also be added to the poultice, and poppy fomentation may likewise be employed occasionally. We only wish, in such cases, to lessen the action, not the powers;



powers; lead applications, therefore, which appear to destroy the power, has best be omitted.

### Of their Treatment when they suppurate.

The suppuration is not to be hurried on as in the true suppuration, by irritating applications, but when it has formed it is best to make an opening by caustic, opium being previously applied to the part, as cutting does not agree with such.

### Of the Dressings.

These should be very mild; the poultice mentioned before with opium is chiefly to be employed, and when in a healing state, Turner's cerate should be employed, for dry lint will sometimes inflame, and so will bark also. Bark should be given internally, as it lessens irritability and gives strength. Opium may be given internally occasionally. When mild dressings do not answer, we are to try such as are more stimulating, as Spirits of Turpentine, Balsams, &c. and it is a curious circumstance that sores which are sometimes so irritable as not to admit the gentlest touch nor the softest poultice, will now and then be made easy by the oil of turpentine. Whenever we look at a sore we should consider whether the indolent or the irritable prevails, and act accordingly.

### Preliminary Properties to the unsound Dispositions and Actions.

Local diseases, attended with indolent actions, produce the two following effects: first, a thickening



ing of the part diseased; second, the formation of an entire new substance in <sup>a</sup> part.

General Observations on unsound Dispositions of Parts, particularly the Indolent, both without Inflammation and with it, as also Suppuration.

Indolent dispositions arise from the constitution or parts; but as there are no constitutions, scarcely which are not susceptible of inflammation, the irritable most commonly prevails.

When indolence takes place in a disease of a part, we can scarcely attribute it to the constitution; it is most likely that it depends on some specific action in the part. Indolence sometimes steals gradually in a part which was active at first, as in some sore legs, &c. it takes place in the skin and muscles. Many indolent complaints are of a specific kind, as some being produced by scrophulous, cancer, lues venerea, and sometimes the gout.

### Of their Locality.

Local indolent diseases are seldom observed to spread. A general effect of this local indolent action is a thickening of the parts, which is of two kinds; first, of the natural parts, which I shall call the interstitial thickening, cellular membrane, &c. being loaded; the second is where the part is nearly formed, and is circumscribed, the other being more diffused. It even is a circumscribed tumour forming in the cellular membrane, and would appear to be the cells of this distended. A schirrus is an extravasation of G.L. into the cellular glands.

### Of their forming Calcareous Earth.

This would appear from the strengthening disposition,



position, but it is most probable that it is a general principle with such parts; for we have earth deposited in parts where it could not be with the intention to give strength, as in the coats of arteries, eyes, testicles, &c.

### Symptoms of Indolent Complaints.

The thickening in such as arise spontaneously, is the first symptom; this process is hardly ever communicated to the mind, no pain is there induced; it is, however, oftener followed by a pain, which is of a heavy kind, producing sickness, &c. These tumours are of a considerable thickness of structure, being sometimes almost cartilaginous, and on this account do not easily take on the leading steps to a cure, as inflammation; and when they do not suppurate it is with difficulty they ulcerate.

### Of the Cause and Intention of these diseased Increase of Parts.

The immediate causes are various, and obscure, but the final cause is obvious in many, viz. to produce adhesion in some, as was formerly explained; in others to give strength, &c.

Two causes of indolence I take to be; first, long continued application of cold; second, violent action, at length terminating in indolence; the third cause is mechanical, and which no part of the body is exempt from; it is to be found in the tunica vaginalis, in the case of hydrocele, and in the ovarice in dropsies that occur there, &c. &c. It is often carried beyond salutary purposes, producing diseases, as corns. The immediate cause is salutary. It is curious that pressure should produce two such different effects,



effects as thickening and ulceration; this, however, depends, upon the degree, for if slight and continued long, the former effect is produced.

The Disease arising from pressure I shall now consider as varicose veins, and the thickening of the cuticle forming corns.

## Varicose Veins.

This disease takes place in the large veins of the legs; but I suspect the small ones are also affected. The disease is too extensive in general to admit of being dissected out; but when this can be conveniently done it will be proper. Thickening of the cuticle: A corn is a thickened cuticle produced by external pressure on the part, which is preternatural and continued. The thickened cuticle continues to press on the cutis, and in proportion as this thickening is increased, the pain increases. The immediate cause is the stimulant of necessity, &c. When corns run deep and are of long standing the cure is tedious. It may be divided into the natural, palliative, or radical. The first is removing or lessening of the pressure, or keeping the part soft and moist with plaister, &c. The second is by removing part of the corn, lessening the pressure. The part should be soaked in warm water for half an hour before it is pared. When they are deep it is difficult to dig them out entirely without cutting the edges of the cutis, which may in certain habits produce inflammation and mortification. The radical is removing them entirely. Any thing that will stimulate through the thickness in the manner of blisters, will perform this; for when the pressure which produced the corn is increased  
considera-



considerably, the part will become inflamed, and blister and suppurate, and by that means, a radical cure may be produced.

### Indolence from Cold.

Cold is a powerful obstructor of the natural animal powers and actions. The thickening arising from cold is at first of an irritable nature, whence chilblains are produced, &c. Delicate and scrophulous - having least power to generate heat are most affected by this cause.

### Spontaneous Indolence.

This does not give the alarm to the constitution, and may affect a part in the form of a tumour, or the whole constitution, as in scrophula, lues venerea, &c.

The interstical is either from visible or invisible causes. The complaint of the legs, to which the Barbadoes people are so liable, now and then occurs in this country. It begins upon cold being diffused without inflammation through the cellular membrane. The immediate cause is the depending situation of the legs.

### Of the Cure.

This may be attempted by mercurial ointment first rubbed into the parts; second, by bandages; third, by sea-bathing. When accidental to a country, it would seem that the complaint admits of a cure without much difficulty; but when particular to a country, I fear that this



This will not be the case. Where tumours happen in parts where lymphatic glands are situated, the swelling or thickening sometimes begins in the glands, but is not confined to them, being extended to the parts in the neighbourhood, as the cellular membrane and muscle, &c. These are often considered venereal when they are not so. Indeed the swelling which people are salivated for is not venereal, being rather of a scrophulous nature. In all cases of local diseases it is proper to enquire whether they arise from the constitution, from the part alone, or from both. It is frequently difficult to determine this point; but without such leading steps it will be impossible to pursue a rational plan. Such circumstances so greatly depend upon the sagacity of the surgeon. It may be observed, however, that local affections which are connected with the constitution, are more diffused.

In all swellings which I have been speaking of, it is best to produce the resolution, if possible, and an absorption of the extravasated fluid. This should be attempted in the first place, by giving proper powers to the parts by mercurial plaisters, fumigating with aromatic herbs, and steaming. Great care should be taken that the inflammation or action is not carried too far, lest mortification should ensue. If a resolution cannot be produced, we are next to look to a salutary suppuration. Poultices with cummin seeds, mustard seeds, and warm gums, are sometimes proper.

### Suppuration.

To produce ulceration when suppuration has taken place, inflammation should be excited or kept up; the abscess should not be opened early, but when fit to be opened the opening



opening should be large, even a circular incision, sometimes, this is removing the part from its indolence, there being a necessity for the action from the opening; this therefore is the road to cure. But after it has gone on well in this way for some time, the indolent will be apt to return again by degrees.

In some of these tumours the coats become hardened and even ossified, so that it is necessary sometimes to dissect out the diseased part. Various are the means used to produce a healthy disposition in the indolent parts I have been speaking of. A stimulating application, which is of service for a time, at length loses its good effects; hence it is necessary to change the applications from time to time, as occasion requires. Balsams are occasionally used for this purpose, and may sometimes be mixed with red precipitate and applied to the sore with advantage. When tincture of myrrh is used it should be applied often. Alum, bark, aq. camph. calomel, and lime water are all employed in this case, and should be applied as often as three or four times a day.





# SCROPHULA.



This is a disease so well marked, having so many leading principles, that it cannot well be mistaken. It is so clasped among specific diseases, but not among poisons. It has the power of making the parts sympathetic in the same mode of action; or of producing local sympathy; but this perhaps is the case with most diseases. It never produces any effect on the absorbents, i.e. parts are not affected in the course of absorption. It cannot be inoculated like the small pox. Turkeys and monkeys are liable to this disease, and I once saw a young boar with white swellings, &c. There appears something of a seditive quality in scrophula.

Of the Constitutions most susceptible of this Disease, which may be called the natural predisposing Cause.

These are the delicate and irritable, who can neither bear fatigue, heat or cold, and cannot bear the action of mercury.

Com-



## Complexion.

People of fair complexion and light-coloured hair, are more liable to it than those of a dark colour. The former do not appear to have much red blood in them, the circulation being languid. This complexion is accompanied with thick lips, &c. I never saw but one black in this country affected with scrophula. There are some parts which are more disposed to take on the scrophulous dispositions than others from the slightest causes; such are the lymphatic glands in every part of the body, but more those that are superficially situated and most exposed, as those of the neck and lungs. Joints, with the soft parts, ends of bones, and ligaments, are particularly liable to this disease. The joints of the foot and hand are most frequently affected, and the reason may be this, that they are most exposed to cold and such accidents as produce it; besides the circulation is most languid in them, and here are a number of cartilages and ligaments which favor the disease. The knee joint, hip joint, and shoulder, are often affected with it, and the vertebrae of the back and loins; the skin has the least tendency of any part of the body to be affected with this disease; it is, however, often obliged to be affected in a secondary manner.

Age.



## Age.

This disease is more peculiar to youth than advanced age; from one to fifteen years is the most general period; and after from fifteen to forty. Full grown turkies, &c. seldom fall into it.

## Hereditary.

It is generally supposed to be so, but I think the circumstances which give rise to such an opinion are not sufficient to prove it. It is certain the disease often affects children whose parents have been known never to have it. It is true that it occurs and runs through whole families, but this depends upon the province of the natural predisposing cause. A susceptibility for peculiar irritations, &c. is hereditary, and this is the only manner in which a disease may be said to be hereditary. A delicate child born in the West Indies coming to this country shall be affected with scrophula, but had it remained there it would probably never have been seized with it. Climate is a principal cause of this disease, and may be considered in two lights, either as a predisposing cause, or when violent as an immediate. Cold, with inconsistent weather, alternate damps, wet and dry, &c. appear to be the great predisposing



posing cause. That irregularity of climate produces this affect is demonstrable from its happening seldom or never in very warm or cold climates, from lat 40 to 60 the disease is not frequent. Persons coming from warm climates are very liable to be affected with scrophula. All the monties that die in this country, die of indurated lymphatic glands. Turkeys more properly belong to warm climates; the disorder called the pip in fowls I am of opinion is of a scrophulous nature.

### Of its Causes.

There are many of these; any thing that can produce a natural or a diseased action in a part, or in the whole, may give rise to it, as fevers, lues venerea, small pox, colds, &c. When it has occurred after inoculation, it has been absurdly attributed to the introduction of scrophulous matter with that of the small pox. The susceptibility of some for this disease is so great, that an attack of fever, or any disorder that deranges the habit for a time, with the assistance of climate, will induce it.

### Of its Inflammation.

The true scrophula hardly appears to be attended with inflammation; the indolence and absence of pain in the part, led me to suppose that it was attended with a seditive quality,



lity, where there is a mixture, i.e. where it is not of the true scrophula, then there is more inflammation, &c. The progress of the true scrophula is very slow. When lymphatic glands swell much in one night, they have something of the common inflammation in them. A quick immediate cause has operated in such cases, as cold, &c. they sooner come to suppuration. When scrophula affects the bones, the whole of the earthy matter is, sometimes absorbed.

### Of the Suppuration.

The inflammation being imperfect, the suppuration is so likewise; indeed, in true scrophula, when resolution fails, the parts seem to lose their life, but do not mortify, a quantity of curdly matter is formed. The lymphatic glands often fall into this state. Many scrophulous tumours, however, suppurate nearly in the common way.

### Of the Matter.

This is often of the common kind; if it has come through the parts which are not scrophulous, as in psoas abscess, and C. L. is however frequently mixed with it.

### Ulcerations.

This is slow, and when it comes to the skin, appears to be stationary, remaining for months, and the matter is often again absorbed. It does not form at the point like a common abscess, but the whole surface becomes shining pure flesh, &c.

Of



## Of their Granulations.

Scrophulous parts do not granulate kindly, appearing like a glossy transparent substance, and the granulations have no power of contracting, so that the sore remains in a stationary state for a long time.

## Cicatrization.

All the leading steps to this process are backwards, &c. and when the cicatrix does form it is not a good one.

## Of the Appearance of Scrophulous Tumours and Sores, according to the Nature of the part.

It is extremely difficult to describe appearances. The scrophula begins in three different ways; first, by circumscribed tumours; secondly, by tumefaction; third, suppuration without the last; these are compound, perhaps, with some other mode of action, but the same treatment is applicable in all. The circumscribed are chiefly of the lymphatic glands, although the brain, in breast, uterus, and testicle, are now and then affected with them. In the breasts these are taken for schirrous, but are unattended with pain and do not produce swelling in the armpit. These are very frequent; in the testicle they are supposed to be cancerous. In the scrophulous abscesses of the fingers, &c. the swellings scarcely subside upon the commencement of suppuration. It is not without difficulty that an exfoliation is produced from a scrophulous bone. When the disease attacks particular



particular parts of the body, it produces symptoms in some degree peculiar to the part. Hence white swellings, lumbar abscesses, hip cases, and consumptions, also some diseased breasts and testicles. The white swellings and hip cases are commonly supposed to be scrophulous, but the others in general have not been thought so. When the lower extremities are attacked lameness and wasting of the limb takes place; and at length swelling; when it is in the knee it is attended with more pain than in other parts, and the suppuration is tolerably perfect, this depending upon the scrophulous affection being complicated with the common inflammation, and this being occasioned by the complaint being excited by accidents. The scrophulous begins in the lungs by tubercles, which at length suppurate, &c. The pain, cough, inflammation, and difficulty of breathing, will be greater in proportion to the quickness with which the immediate cause acts, as a violent cold, &c. This forms the true consumption of this country.

### Lumbar Abscesses.

This often begins with a pain in the knee, and inside of the thigh, this deceiving the surgeon unless he is upon his guard. This disease often takes place insensibly; the accretion of the diseased parts is slow and gradual; weakness in the parts affected is often not produced, even when the matter has made its way to the surface of the body; strains bring on these, and this occasions at times some degree of pain and weakness in the part affected. The efficacy of sea-bathing in the early



early stage of this disease, and the age at which it occurs, as well as the constitution, viz. fair and delicate, are strong proofs of its being a scrophulous disposition.

### Abscess in the first Joint of the Thigh.

Weakness is first produced, together with lameness, confined motion, and a gradual decay of the limb; yet sometimes there will be a considerable thickening. To distinguish this from a lumber abscess, we must attend chiefly to the motion of the joints.

### White Swelling.

These steal upon the patient gradually, and are often attended with an increase in the secretion of synovia, increasing the swelling, &c.

The term white swelling is applicable to every joint in the body, before the skin inflames, &c. though generally applied to the knee only. The white swellings of the knee may be divided into two kinds; first, the true scrophulous; secondly, such as are attended with much of the common inflammation.

### Consumption.

The fair, the delicate, and young, are most liable to it. The disease begins with a cold, which often produces swellings in the neck, called the almonds, &c. after which tubercles form in the lungs, these suppurating, and at length killing the patient. The progress of the disease is known by a quick hard pulse, and considerable pain



pain in some part of the chest, these denoting more or less of the common inflammation, and the tendency to suppuration.

Consumption often begins with an hamoptoe, i.e. a discharge of blood from the lungs is often the forerunner of the disease; whether this depends upon a vessel giving way or not; what else I do not know.

### Scrophulous Testicles.

That many of these are truly scrophulous is demonstrable from this mode of attack and progress, suppuration, cure, &c. These are called cancerous, although extremely different from cancer. The disease begins gradually, is attended with little pain, and yields to sea-bathing. The age at which these attack is from sixteen to twenty.

### Scrophulous Breasts.

I never saw but one that grew very large; it was removed, weighing sixteen pounds, and the patient recovered. It increased gradually to this size without much pain. I have seen several scrophulous breasts in young women.

The distinguishing Mark between the Scrophulous Testicles and Breasts, and the Cancerous.

The spermatic cord is very frequently affected in the cancerous testicle, from the absorption, which is never the case in the scrophulous. The cancerous breast gives considerable



derable pain, even when small, the scrophulous breast but little, and there is no affection of the lymphatics leading to the arm pit, nor is there any swelling in it. We are to consider a number of circumstances in forming an opinion with respect to the nature of the complaint, and notwithstanding we use every precaution, we shall be often mistaken in an opinion.

## Of the Cure of Scrophula.

Extirpation is the most effectual method, when this is practicable, but when it even is it is not always proper. With respect to medicines there are great difficulties. Medicines cannot well alter the effects of climate or the constitution. Bark will cure the ague in Berkshire, but not without the greatest difficulty in the fens of Lincolnshire.

The change of climate is highly advisable, and should be recommended to those who have it in their power either to go to a warm climate or to a regular cold one; this should be done early, and may be as advisable in hip cases, diseased mesenteric glands, &c. as in consumptions. Consumptive patients should go to the south, should be near the sea side; and, terrible as it may appear, sea bathing is advisable. The medicines indicated are those of the strengthening kind, as bark, &c. Sea bathing acts in somewhat of a specific way, in some instances, even overcoming climates. Some instances, even overcoming climates. Cicuta, burnt sponge, and val soda, are sometimes useful. Sea bathing is cold bathing in winter, but it is different in the summer, and this ought to be remembered, for the cold



cold bath does not agree with many constitutions; when therefore a patient is sent to the sea side, a general and extensive plan should be laid down by the physician. - If in the winter, and the cold bath cannot be born, then the tepid sea bath is to be tried. - A glow should be felt and the spirits mended if the bath agrees; if instead of this the person is chilly, &c. the sea should be tried once more and once to that, and at the end of this time if the person continues debilitated, he or she should go into a vessel of sea water heated to 80 degrees, and remain in it ten minutes, and if this does not answer the bath should be heated to 90 or 100 degrees. A month or six weeks bathing is seldom sufficient; it should be persisted in a much longer time, five or six months, a year or two to produce the desired effect. Case of a young lady, illustrating this practice. - In short, there must be a perseverance in the sea bathing, or the person should go to a warm climate. This lady just mentioned made use of sea-bathing in a tepid state, and notwithstanding she remained in this warm bath near an hour, it rather increased her strength than produced debility, as might have been supposed. Licilla is certainly next to sea-bathing as a specific and is often given alone, or joined to the bark, with considerable advantage. Burnt sponge has long kept its ground, and has some powers, though not so great as some have thought. Sal Soda is also useful. Warm clothing should be particularly attended to, so as to keep up a uniform warmth; this circumstance is too much neglected, particularly



particularly in children. I have been often surprised to see children out of doors in a cold day, with bare legs, neck, &c. while their nurses were covered with all possible care.

Gentle exercise is proper in scrophula, and a vegetable diet is perhaps preferable to any other. Bleeding never does more than palliate in consumption; small bleedings in such cases keep up a balance between the quantity of lungs and quantity of blood, for all the blood is to pass thro' the lungs, and a considerable part of those is often almost obliterated. It is necessary to lessen the quantity of blood which is sent through them. Physicians bleed in such cases, with a view of abating inflammation, but I cannot help thinking this is on a wrong principle.

### Local Application.

Few of those are serviceable; the best are cicuta poultice, and poultice of the sea water with linseed flour. Bathing the sores frequently with sea water is often serviceable.

### Surgical Treatment.

After suppuration has taken place most of these abscesses should be left to themselves, opening being in general very improper, unless to get at an exfoliating bone. The opening of lumbar abscesses and white swellings is to be left in a great measure to the direction of the surgeon, for by opening them we sometimes hasten death.

Effects of Surgical Treatment on those that are not dangerous.

Violence generally increases them. The inflammation, which succeeds the opening is often of the irritable and erysipilatus kind. When the vital



vital parts are not affected the disease in time gives way. The mischief done in the winter is now and then remedied in the summer. Fever has sometimes cured scrophulous sores; this would lead us to stimulants, but here analogy fails us. Time is the only common specific; and hence superstition has attributed the cure often to means which are ridiculous and absurd; - as the royal touch, which has lost its estimation from the circumstances attending the present Royal Family. We may easily explain the action of Vervain also, which has been directed to be worn for years, &c. Sarsaparilla has some little power in scrophulous complaints, but I believe that mercury does harm.

## Of the Carbuncle.

This, from its ultimate effect, may be brought among the mortifications; but I suspect that it is not originally either constitutionally or locally such a disease; it may, however, be ranked among the accidental mortifications. They appear in common near the source of circulation; we cannot suppose therefore that weakness has much to do with the complaint. What is peculiar in this disease is that it generally appears on the back, never or very rarely on the fore part of the body or extremities.

## Character.

It begins with considerable inflammation, which appears to be of a specific kind, approaching nearer to the erysipilatous than any other. The part is tumefied, but not prominent, and has a doughy feel; in a short time a pinacle forms in the skin, resembling a small pock, with



with matter: the inflammation extends, and increasing produces the death of the cellular membrane sooner than that of the other parts. Although the cellular membrane suffers more by this inflammation, and mortifies quickly, yet it is not clear that it is the primary seat of the disease, the skin seeming to be the first of the inflammation. It is not bounded by any adhesions, as other inflammations generally are; for the extends apparently by the matter insinuating itself through and diffusing through the cellular membrane, the inflammation and mortification of which spreads deeper and deeper, which is very singular. At this time the skin above is affected with pimples, which ulcerate as if for the escape of the mortified cellular membrane.

As the sloughs come away they leave large chasms, which are loosely covered by the skin, and the tips of the pimples are loose and flayed. It may be asked why the skin does not carry on the disease, as it begins there? Again, does the matter make its way deeper and deeper, contrary to what happens in other cases? - If these be answered in the affirmative, the practice should be to open them as soon as they begin to form a base. To prevent the further insinuation of the matter, the opening should be made small and made early. The removing so much skin as is commonly practised I think improper, as the skin left readily omits with the inner parts after the cellular membrane has sloughed away. The application of remedies with a view to induce it to heal, can be of no service, till the sloughs come away, as they do not come in contact with the sound parts.

Of



## Of Boils.

I suspect that boils are of the same species, but are attended with more of the adhesive inflammation; therefore do not spread. The core of boils, so called, is nothing more than slow- or mortified parts. When carbuncles are large, or there are many of them, there is evidently a fault in the constitution; but when there is only one, and that small, it may not be connected with the habit. Carbuncles most frequently occur in the old, boils in the young.

## A Case of Carbuncles.

A gentleman, aged seventy, who had lived well, rather above par, was seized with universal dropsy, of which he was cured by Dover's Powder and drinking freely of Beak punch; soon after which he was attacked with repeated carbuncles, for which he took bark, calomel, and opium; but without any good effect. When he was attacked with the first his health seemed very good, but in this progress it became considerably affected. The first carbuncle appeared on the shoulder, and the second six or eight inches below that; these became one, then another appeared on the side, and a fourth on the small of the back. The third and fourth were opened earlier than the former, and did not spread so far. He afterwards took cicuta, then var. saparilla freely; these were of no service; the var. saparilla was drank in decoction, and the powder of it put into puddings, &c. these failing, the decoction of ulmi with val. soda were used, and appeared to be of considerable service. Sleep and appetite (which before



before had been impaired) returned, and the general health of the patient mended; - the quickness of the pulse abated, and the carbuncles healed without any new ones breaking out. When they began to heal, they discharged a thin kind of serum. Blands not being set to the inflammation is the reason, why the cellular membrane mortifies; - because if matter be at any time diffused through it, it will occasion a sloughing; hence this disease differs from that mortification, which is induced by two great action with weakened powers. The carbuncles generally attack those who have lived freely. Most authors have discouraged bleeding in this disease; some say it should never be used; - but in the beginning, if connected with phlogist. death. Bleeding may be employed with advantage. This, together with the treatment in general, must depend upon the constitution which the disease attacks. In general, however, bleeding and the carbuncle do not agree.





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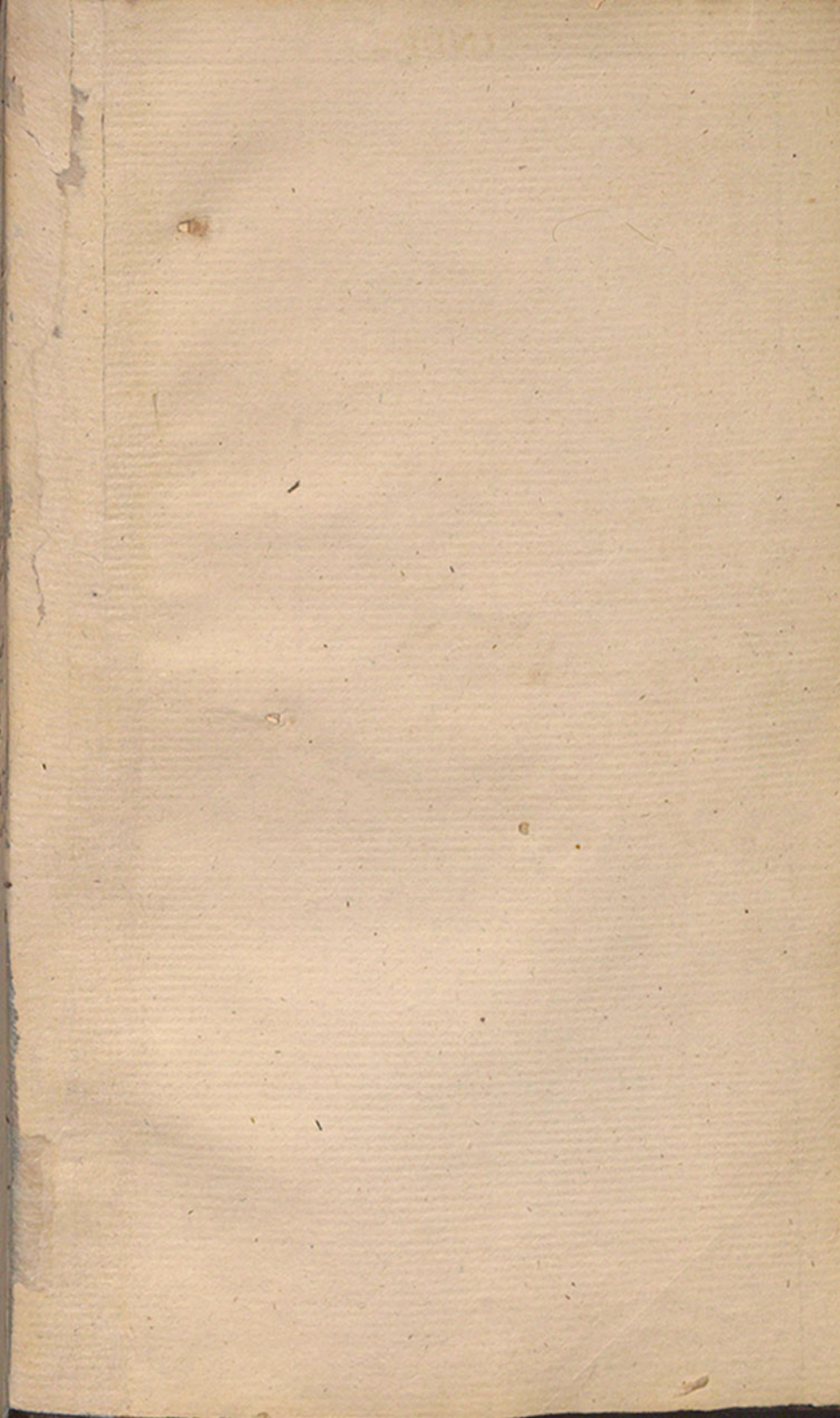


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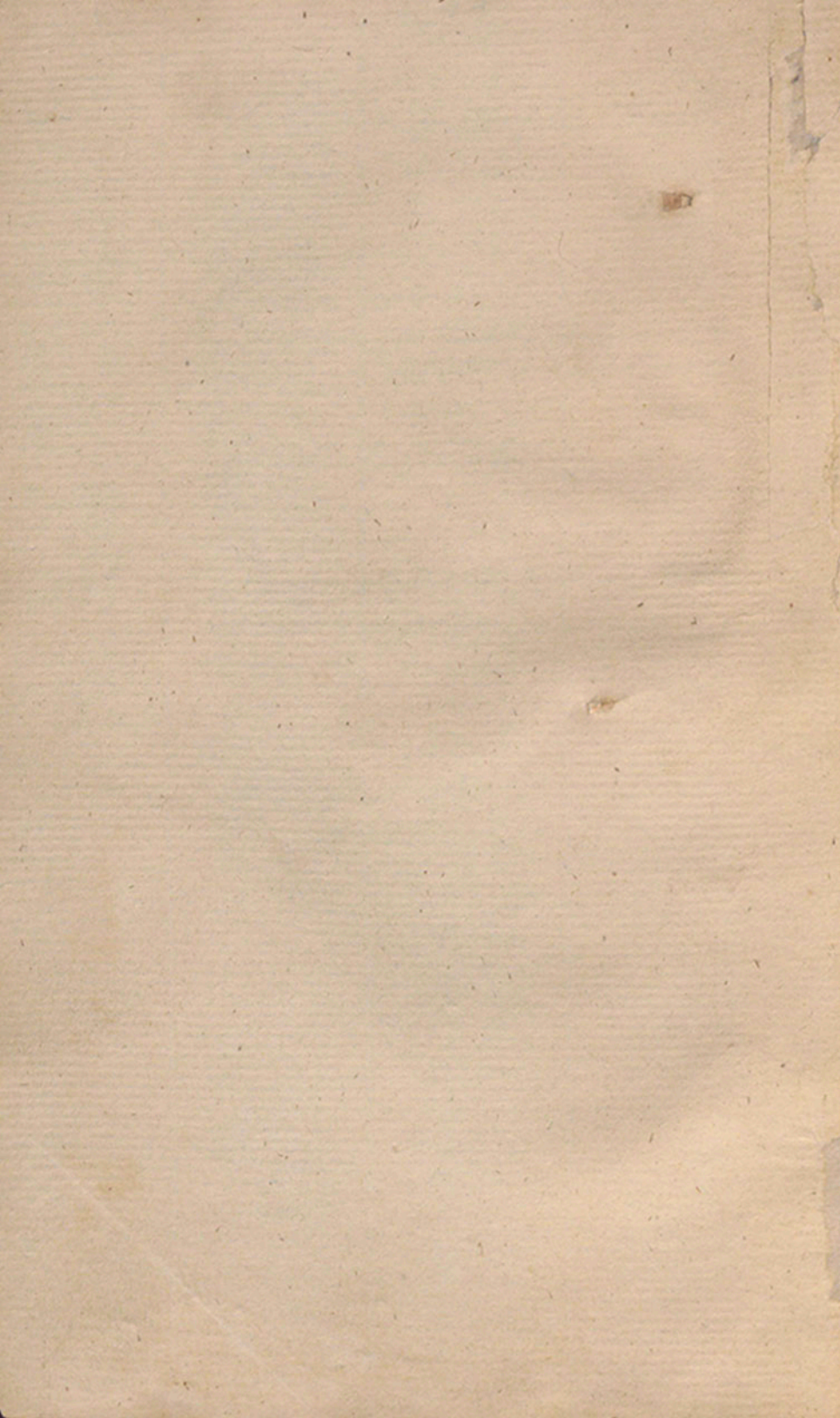
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